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OPINION METER

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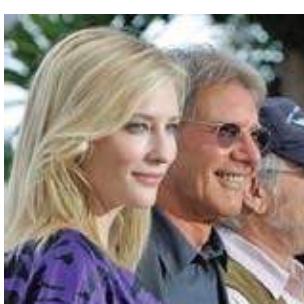
INSIDE



Three Days of Mourning

China will spend three days marking the moment when tens of thousands died in a devastating earthquake.

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Indy foils Critics

Indiana Jones received louder applause going in than he did coming out.

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Person allegedly engaged in illegal sponsorship arrested. PAGE 3

DPW official, businessman arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Investigators at the Attorney General's Office arrested over the weekend an official of the Department of Public Works and a businessman over the alleged illegal transfer to a private company \$1,185 worth of diesel fuel and a \$58,000 bulldozer that belonged to the government agency.

Then DPW acting director for Transportation Automotive Heavy Equipment Division (TAHED) Antonio Sablan Demapan, 53, was arrested for theft, theft by unlawful taking or disposition, removal of government property, and misconduct in public office.

John Tenorio Sablan, 49, owner of JG Sablan Company,

was arrested for receiving stolen property and removal of government property.

Demapan was served with an arrest warrant at his residence in Kagman Friday at 6:10pm. He is the brother of chief justice Miguel S. Demapan.

Sablan was arrested at JG Sablan Rock Quarry in Lower

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

3 more bush fires hit Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Three bush fires broke out at separate areas in As Matuus yes-

terday, sweeping down three to four acres of grassland.

No one was reported injured. No house or structure was affected, according to Department

of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro.

Police officers also responded to the area and maintained the

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Thick smoke and burned trees are seen while Department of Public Safety fire fighters and CUC personnel try to contain the bush fire that swept down three to four acres of grassland in As Matuus near the former La Fiesta Mall yesterday afternoon.

Federal regulations will apply to political contributions made to candidates in the upcoming election for the CNMI's first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Under U.S. election law, certain people, businesses, and groups are banned from making

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Lynch is new chief prosecutor

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER



The Office of the Attorney General announced yesterday the Lynch appointment of Assistant Attorney General Kevin A. Lynch as the new chief prosecutor in the office's criminal division.

Lynch replaced AAG Jeffrey L. Warfield Sr., who had held the post since Jan. 30,

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Candidates for NMI delegate must follow federal campaign regs

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Delegate should take into account federal roll out assistance
Page 3

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Local

Design proposals in for NMI commemorative coin

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Design proposals have been submitted for the commemorative quarters for the Northern Marianas, as well as for the four U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

Numismatic News, a publication for coin and paper money collectors, showed in its website three design choices for the Northern Marianas.

Two of the designs feature latte, birds, boats, and fauna. The other design focuses on the islands' role in World War II, showing armed soldiers and using the date "June 15, 1944," when the historic Battle of Saipan began.

The publication reported that the proposed designs had been



sent to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts for review on May 15, 2008. It is not clear which design now awaits final approval by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee. CCAC is set to meet on May 20, at 9:30am in Washington, D.C.

A committee led by the governor's special assistant for administration, Esther Fleming, is in charge of the design for the

CNMI commemorative coin. The *Saipan Tribune* tried to get more information from Fleming, but she was not available at press time.

"My understanding is that the CNMI provided the narratives and the U.S. Mint worked on designs based on the narratives we submitted," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

The Northern Marianas,

Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia were not included in the 50 state commemorative quarter coin program initiated in 1998. State quarters began circulating in 1999 in the order they were admitted into the union. The program was slated to end this year. About 30 billion coins have been minted thus far.

In December 2007, President Bush signed a law extending the program to the nation's capital and the insular areas.

Under the program, the local government is tasked with submitting a design for the back of the commemorative quarter,

which must be approved first by the U.S. Mint.

The new quarters will be minted in 2009, starting with the District of Columbia coin.

According to the Mint, nearly half of all Americans collect the state quarters.

What happened to fuel subsidy, CUC asked

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been asked to explain how extra funds made available by law were factored into the new power rates.

Rep. Tina Sablan, chairwoman of the Saipan legislative delegation's Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, questioned yesterday how CUC says it came up with the new rate schedule.

She noted that Public Law 16-2 provided additional funds to subsidize CUC's fuels.

P.L. 16-2, which suspended the October 2007 rollback of power rates, allows for the government to pay only 11 percent, instead of the actuary-recommended 37.4 percent, of the total payroll to the NMI Retirement. Half of the savings—about \$5.63 million—from the reduction is supposed to go to CUC's fuel expenses.

Further, the law grants the governor unlimited reprogramming power over lapsed funding, re-appropriate some \$2.15 million of suspended earmarks to CUC's fuel expenses, and allow CUC to use half of its customers' security deposits for fuel.

In a letter to CUC executive director Antonio Muna, Sablan asked whether these funds were factored into the new rates. "If so, how? If not, why not?" she added.

The lawmaker said it remains unclear not only how the rates for this month were calculated, but also whether CUC followed the same rate formula that was adopted in September last year, prior to the passage of rollback law.

She requested a breakdown of the new rates according to the generation, transmission, distribution, customer service, administration, as well as fuel costs that were factored into CUC's calculations.

She also asked Muna to

explain how the new rates, including CUC's decision to apply higher charges of 42-plus cents per kWh to a broader group of residential customers, complies with the rate formula referenced in PL 16-2.

Further, she took issue with CUC's decision to set the new rates without the approval of the Public Utilities Commission.

She raised concern that the new rates were assessed to try to recover fuel expenses dating back to February 2008. "Isn't this fuel that has in fact already been paid for

through government subsidy as a result of PL 15-94? Is it, in CUC's view, both legal and fair to try to recover these costs? Moreover, does the rate formula adopted last year provide that rates should be adjusted according to projected fuel costs, as you say the new rates do, rather than actual fuel costs?" she asked.

Sablan's queries are a follow up to the explanation Muna submitted to the Legislature last week. In that correspondence, Muna defended the doubling of power rates, saying that CUC is actually charging less than what it should for fuel.

Muna said the current projected price of fuel is \$3.69 per gallon. This is four cents higher than the figure used for calculating the electric fuel rate of 35.7 cents per kWh.

Muna also said the rate doubled because fuel costs increased by 92.76 percent while sales declined by 12.6 percent. "Decreasing sales has the effect of spreading more costs over a smaller revenue base," he said.

The new rate schedule went into effect on May 3, 2008.

Under the new scale, customers must pay a total of 37.3 cents per kWh for the first 500 kWh of usage. The rate increases with consumption.

Prior to May 2008, customers paid 17.6 cents per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh.

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Person allegedly engaged in illegal sponsorship arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of three persons who were allegedly engaged in illegal sponsorship of 19 alien workers was arrested in San Antonio Friday afternoon.

Stacy N. Bautista, also known as Stacy N. Dela Cerna, 36, was arrested for document fraud, conspiracy to commit document fraud, unlawful employment of aliens, conspiracy to commit unlawful employment of aliens, inducement by fraudulent misrepresentation, and immigration and labor entrepreneurship fraud.

The Superior Court also is-

sued a warrant for the arrest of co-defendants Elenita E. Camacho and Weena P. Dulay for the same charges. As of yesterday, it was not clear yet whether Camacho and Dulay were arrested.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama ordered that a \$10,000 cash bail shall remain at the court had earlier imposed for the temporary release of Bautista.

Preliminary hearing was set for May 28 at 9am.

Immigration investigator

Erwin Flores of the Attorney General's Office's Investigation Unit stated in his report that

based on information provided by a "co-operating witness" corroborated by other evidence, beginning in May 2006 to March 2008, Bautista and Camacho executed nonresident worker contract applications

to the Department of Labor and the Division of Immigration to employ 19 alien workers.

Flores said the applications were filed so those alien workers could acquire an immigra-

tion benefit through the sponsorship scheme.

Bautista, Camacho, and Dulay allegedly created and used commercial enterprises such as GEM Professional Service, WPD Accounting Service, and Rhen Tailoring Dress Shop for the purpose of charging money to

employ those workers and allow them to remain in the CNMI.

Bautista is the alleged sole-proprietor of the Rhen Tailoring Dress Shop, while Camacho is the sole-proprietor of the GEM Professional Service. Dulay is the alleged sole-proprietor of the WPD Accounting Service.

Flores said he checked the locations of these businesses and discovered they are not in operation.

Bautista and Camacho allegedly charged \$1,000 to \$1,500 to each alien worker sponsored under the name of three companies.

Delegate should take into account federal roll out assistance—Faisao

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Acting Secretary Melvin Faisao said the future Washington Delegate "should prioritize and take into account federal roll out assistance."



DCCA oversees a number of public assistance such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance

for Needy Families, Child Care Development, youth and juvenile services, cultural preservation, and other community services.

Faisao said in his own personal opinion and as a person who frequently deals with the community at large, "the CNMI delegate, whoever is elected by CNMI voters, should prioritize and take into account federal roll out assistance such as increase in financial assistance."

To date, resident Rep. Pete

A. Tenorio has formally announced his candidacy for CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Tenorio, who has represented the CNMI in Washington, D.C. for over six years, is the first to declare his bid for the new position.

Other candidates reported to be interested in running for delegate include Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, Associate Judge Juan Lizama, Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan, and former attorney general and now attorney in private practice Robert Torres.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is extending the bid due date to **June 6, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.**, local time and is issuing the following amendments for CUC-IFB-08-003, **Rehabilitation of the Existing Airport Slow Sand Filtration Rehabilitation Project Saipan, CNMI:**

1. Revised Bid Schedule. (Will be pick-up at CUC Procurement & Supply at the Joeten Dandan Bldg, 3rd Floor Room #4)
2. Response to prospective bidders questions & additional comments from CUC. (Will be pick-up at CUC Procurement & Supply at the Joeten Dandan Bldg, 3rd Floor Room #4)
3. One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted to Procurement and Supply Manager, P.O. Box 501220 CK Sampan, MP 96950, or hand delivered to Saipan, CUC Procurement & Supply at the Joeten Dandan Bldg, 3rd Floor Room #4 no later than **2:00 p.m., on June 6, 2008** at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquiries should be directed to Mr. Larry Manacop, Water Division at telephone number (670) 235-7025 thru 7032 ext: 155

ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

Alien workers' group seeks help from FBI, DPS over death threat

A leader of alien workers' group yesterday sought help from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Public Safety after he received a death threat.

The workers' group leader went to FBI's office yesterday morning to report the threat on his life then pro-

ceeded to DPS headquarters to file a complaint.

The group leader, who requested anonymity for security purposes, told *Saipan Tribune* he was a little bit scared, but that this would not stop him from leading their group's cause for justice and fairness.

"I guess it's (threat) part of the

game. But this will not stop me from exercising my rights to express under the U.S. democratic system," he said.

He said a male person called his telephone Sunday at 8:45am, uttered profanities and threatened to kill him.

The workers' group leader said when he talked back, the

caller hung up the phone.

It was the first death threat that the workers' group leader had received.

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday said when she learned about the threat she advised the group's leader to seek help

from the FBI and DPS.

"The guest workers' organizations and their courageous leaders who are constantly attacked by letter writers will not go away; they will unify and strengthen to become an even more prevalent and powerful voice in the CNMI," Doromal said.

She said if the people of the CNMI do not stop the fight and accept the changes that are around the corner, they will hurt only themselves.

"The days of fighting the federal government are past. It's a new era, and people need to accept that fact," Doromal stressed. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

FINDING THE RANGE

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clyde K. Norita and Police officer Raymond Dela Cruz shoot using handguns during the Shooting Range Open House at the San Juan Shooting Range in As Matuas Thursday. The activity is part of the Department of Public Safety's 2008 CNMI Police Week.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



3 MORE

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traffic flow along the highway near the former La Fiesta Mall yesterday afternoon as thick smoke caused zero visibility.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crew members were

also dispatched to the area as a couple of power poles were damaged.

Ogumoro said the first fire was reported at 8:51am, while the second happened at 12:15pm and the third one broke out at 2:26pm.

The two fires occurred near the former La Fiesta Mall,

while the other fire was near the Pau Pau Beach.

Ogumoro said 14 firefighters responded to the area to contain the separate blazes.

She said the cause of the fires was still under investigation.

Last week, a bush fire that lasted for two days devastated a big portion of a mountain in Kannat

Table and Chalan Kiya areas.

Last April 21, bush fire broke out at Wireless Antenna area in Capital Hill, reportedly destroying 600 acres of grassland.

Two days later, smoke blanketed some areas in Kannat Table, Chalan Laulau, and Chalan Kiya as grassfire lasted for about two hours.

ers), federal contractors, corporations, and labor unions.

Cash, in any amount over \$100, is prohibited. Contributions in the name of another person are not permitted.

For this election, an individual can only contribute up

to \$2,300 to a federal candidate such as the CNMI delegate.

Married couples are considered to be separate individuals with separate contribution limits.

Checks, currency, or anything of value given to a fed-

eral candidate is considered a contribution. This definition includes in-kind donations of food, beverages, office supplies, printing or other services, furniture, etc. But it does not include volunteer work. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

lar Crime/Government Corruption Unit stated in her report that on April 16, 2008, three DPW employees appeared at her office and requested an investigation into possible criminal misconduct involving Demapan and Sablan.

Atalig said one of the employees alleged that 352.6 gallons of diesel fuel were "donated" to JG Sablan Company in Lower Base.

The fuel were said to be donated by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to TAHED for official usage for DPW's equipment only.

Atalig said the employee

added that a bulldozer, owned by the government and in the custody of DPW, was transferred to Sablan without following proper procedures and without any documentation or necessary approvals.

The actions were allegedly conducted during working hours utilizing government vehicles at the direction of Demapan during his position as acting director for TAHED.

Atalig said investigation showed that on Feb. 26, 2008, the bulldozer was removed from DPW's TAHED compound without authorization from DPW

Secretary, DPW Procurement and Supply office, or any request for survey addressed to the Division of Procurement and Supply Office, CNMI government.

The investigator said the hauling of the bulldozer was done by KPS company, a private company hired by Sablan.

The bulldozer was allegedly to be exchanged for a water storage tank without knowledge and approval of DPW Secretary or the director of Procurement and Supply Office.

Atalig said DPW or TAHED reportedly does not need any water storage tank whatsoever.

Additionally, only replacement parts are needed to make the bulldozer operable, but such repair is not a priority at DPW.

Atalig said there is also another private company that has indicated an interest in purchasing the bulldozer.

On March 4, 2008, while on duty Demapan allegedly instructed two DPW employees to upload diesel fuel at Power Plant No. III at Isley Field using the government service truck and instructed them to deliver the fuel to JG Sablan Company in Lower Base.

The two employees off-load-

ed 352.6 gallons of diesel fuel into the storage tank of JG Sablan Company.

An employee of JG Sablan received and signed his name on the form. Demapan and Sablan were allegedly present and seen talking during the off-loading of the fuel.

DPW's TAHED is not authorized to make any donation for the benefit of a private company, Atalig said.

According to an analysis report, the investigator said, the diesel fuel still meets the fuel specification requirements and therefore is still viable for its intended use as a diesel fuel.

CANDIDATES

From Page 1

contributions to federal candidates or political committees. These include foreign nationals (excluding "green card" hold-

DPW

From Page 1

Base Friday at 4:15pm.

A bail of \$50,000 cash bail was initially imposed for the temporary release of Demapan and \$25,000 cash bail for Sablan.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama allowed Demapan to post a \$10,000 property bond.

Sablan posted bail last Friday, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

AGO investigator Juanette David Atalig of the White Col-

lar Crime/Government Corruption Unit stated in her report that on April 16, 2008, three DPW employees appeared at her office and requested an investigation into possible criminal misconduct involving Demapan and Sablan.

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The two employees off-load-

LYNCH

From Page 1

2006. The OAG press release said Warfield wanted to return to the courtroom full time.

On Friday, a lawmaker raised an issue about alleged nepotism involving Warfield. His wife, AAG Rebecca Warfield, works as one of his prosecutors in the OAG criminal division.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres, had also attacked Rebecca Warfield when she was serving as commissioner at the Department of Public Safety, questioned her new \$65,000 annual salary. Tor-

res said that Rebecca Warfield is paid more than some attorneys who had served longer at OAG, including Lynch prior to his new appointment.

"This impropriety is causing much demoralization in the AG's office," said Torres.

But press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said that Lynch's appointment had nothing to do with the nepotism allegation against the Warfields. "It was never an issue. When Rebecca returned to the OAG, they made an arrangement for her to report directly to the attorney general. So that negated any possible conflict of interest," said Reyes.

Lynch is the longest tenured assistant attorney general in the Commonwealth. He has served the OAG in various capacities for the past 11 years, including as chief prosecutor from 1999 to 2002. He has most recently been counsel to the Immigration Division, where he handled deportation proceedings, immigration matters, and refugee protection, and prosecuted criminal labor violations on behalf of the Commonwealth. From 2002 to 2006, he was chief counsel to the Department of Labor.

The Attorney General's Office gave Warfield credit for leading the criminal division for

28 months. During the past two years, the division has successfully charged and prosecuted the first cases under the CNMI's new human trafficking laws, obtained guilty verdicts resulting in a life sentence for kidnapping and attempted murder, and prosecuted and received significant sentences for individuals convicted of copper wire thefts and poker robberies.

The office praised Warfield for his work before the CNMI Supreme Court, where he received positive results in cases against taxi driver Pranee Jindawong for drunk driving and Shawn Appleby for murder.

Warfield was also commended for winning a conviction in the CNMI's first trial for stalking under our recently enacted Domestic Violence laws.

Further, the OAG said Warfield had effectively represented the Commonwealth's interests in Kazuyoshi Miura's extradition proceedings. "Under international media scrutiny, AAG Warfield defeated the defendant's attempt to have this fugitive from justice case dismissed," the OAG said.

Miura is wanted in the State of California for murder and conspiracy to commit murder, and remains in CNMI custody

while legal wrangling continues in California and CNMI courts.

"Although I have been pleased with Mr. Warfield and would welcome his continued service as chief prosecutor, I certainly respect his desire to serve the Commonwealth in a different role," said Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory.

"Mr. Warfield passed the CNMI Bar Exam in February 2008 and was sworn in during a ceremony at the Supreme Court on May 1, 2008. This reflects a commitment to serve the Commonwealth, and Jeff is an inspirational and valued asset to the Office of the Attorney General," Gregory added.

MHS team returns from DC competition

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A team from Marianas High School finally returned home after competing in one of the most prestigious academic competitions in the nation.

The 22 students who par-

ticipated this year were from the MHS AP U.S. Government Class who triumphed over other high school teams from the Marianas Baptist Academy and Mount Carmel School to represent the CNMI in the annual "We The People Competition" held in Washington, D.C.

It was the first time that the CNMI took part in the nation's annual academic competition and according to the AP class instructor and one of the group's chaperones, Dr. Chas Algaier, "the students did very well."

MHS 12th grader Anne Ermitanio, one of the students who

participated in the program this year, said the trip altered how she views the government.

"I am now able to really relate to it and apply the Constitution to whatever I do; and I know it definitely benefits my future," Ermitanio said. "Being able to know about your government and going to the mainland is really beneficial because it'll help you understand your rights and duties as a citizen."

Twelfth grader Rachel Reyes, who also participated in the competition this year, said the program gives opportunities to a bigger number of students compared to the other programs available to high school

students in the CNMI.

"Instead of focusing on individuals [or selected students] that we send off for the NFL [National Forensic League], Close-up Club, or the Mock Trial, the 'We The People' program raised the bar of education for all civics-related educational programs in the CNMI."

She said the "We The People" program provided that "extra incentive" to students to travel to the mainland giving them the desire to learn more.

This year's "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" featured an intensive curriculum that provided students with comprehensive instruc-

tion on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the principles and values they embody. The program is designed to promote an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our constitutional democracy.

Students demonstrated their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution before simulated congressional committees made up of constitutional scholars, lawyers, journalists, and public officials.

Twelfth grader Syrille Manacop said the group prepared for one month before the national competition. "I think we all did our best and prepared. We worked as a team," she added.

Red Cross annual meeting this Thursday

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross is having its annual meeting this Thursday, May 22, from 5:30 to 6:30pm at the chapter office on Airport Road. All volunteers, donors, and others

interested in the Red Cross are welcome to attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to hold elections for the voting members of its Board of Directors, review reports by chapter directors,

and transact other business as it may come before the meeting. (Refreshments will be served.)

For more information, please contact the chapter office at 234-3459. (ARC)



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MAZDA



SUZUKI



HYUNDAI



MITSUBISHI MOTORS

New Japanese memorial unveiled at Banzai Cliff

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP08-DCCA/HPO-046**

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 30, 2008 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO CONDUCT AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF APPROXIMATELY 3.5 HECTARES ON KAGMAN PENINSULA, SAIPAN FOR THE DCCA - HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-CHC-067**

SUBMISSION: JUNE 06, 2008 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO PROVIDE AN IMPROVED REDUNDANT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF SERVICES MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Health

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, P&S

President of the Head Temple of Nenpou Shinkyo Kongouji Ryoyu Okeya and former president Reishin Hasegawa pray near the new Nenpou Shinkyo Memorial Cenotaph in Banzai Cliff during its the unveiling ceremony yesterday afternoon.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Female members of the Nenpou Shinkyo Kongouji use their *ako-meogi* or Japanese folding fan to block the heat of the sun during the unveiling of the new Nenpou Shinkyo Memorial Cenotaph in Banzai Cliff Monday afternoon.

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A monument honoring the hundreds of Japanese civilians who jumped to their deaths during the last days of the Pacific War was unveiled yesterday at Banzai Cliff.

About 200 members of the Nenpou Shinkyo Kongouji joined government officials and



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

President of the Head Temple of Nenpou Shinkyo Kongouji Ryoyu Okeya and former president Reishin Hasegawa join Lt. Gov. Tim P. Villagomez, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, and other dignitaries for a group photo shortly after the unveiling ceremony the new Nenpou Shinkyo Memorial Cenotaph in Banzai Cliff yesterday afternoon.

community members in the unveiling ceremony for the Nenpou Shinkyo Memorial Cen-

taph in the Marpi area.

The monument was donated by the Head Temple of Nenpou

Shinkyo Kongouji.

According to Pacific Enterprises vice president Ayako Matsumoto, whose company helped coordinate the event, the monument will serve as a peace memorial as well as a site for prayer.

President of Head Temple Nenpou Shinkyo Ryoyu Okeya said the group is on island to offer their prayers to all those who lost their lives during the war, "and to offer prayers to everlasting world peace."

Lt. Gov. Tim P. Villagomez shared Matsumoto and Okeya's hope for an interminable peace.

"We pray that these losses will never again be suffered by the people of our nations and that the message of peace will prevail in the world for generations to come. Let this monument in Saipan serve as a reminder for all who visit, that healing is possible, and that the path to the future is one of peace," Villagomez said.

The unveiling ceremony was also attended by Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Department of Public Works Secretary Diego B. Songsong, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, Department of Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario, Japanese Consul General Tsutomu Higuchi, former president of Nenpou Shinkyo Reishin Hasegawa, and members of the Nenpou Shinkyo.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB08-DLNR/FW-065**

OPENING DATE: JUNE 02, 2008 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**"FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD)
TRANSPORTATION AND DEPLOYMENT
FOR THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ DR. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ, D.V.M.
Secretary, DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, P&S

community members in the

unveiling ceremony for the Nen-

pou Shinkyo Memorial Cen-

taph in the Marpi area.

The monument was donated

by

the Head Temple of Nenpou

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- Above discounts good for up to 6 persons (including VIP cardholder)

Cruz: Let federal government do its job

TaoTao Tano president Greg Cruz, who in the past was vocal in his opposition to federalization, is now saying that the CNMI should "move forward and let the federal government do its job."

In a statement released yesterday, Cruz said senior staffer of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Re-

sources Allen Stayman, "clarified and answered our debates on permanent residency and green cards."

Stayman, in a statement released recently, said there is no provision in Public Law 110-229



Cruz

providing green cards to guest workers.

Cruz said the community should understand that the CNMI "is in a political union with the United States and there are provisions in our Covenant

agreement that requires mutual consent between governments."

"It's time to embrace the reality of S.2739 and let's move forward to a better Commonwealth and let the Federal Government do its job in establishing a stringent strict border control," Cruz adds.

He concluded that tourism is the only industry left in the CNMI and all kinds of protests

in the community "such as unity marches, candle light vigils, signature drives, and so forth must end, for the reputation of our homeland that had been instilled by such false promises by human rights advocates," he adds. (Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)

Malibu Rum Challenge on May 31

The 7th Annual Northern Marianas Bartenders Association Tournament will be held on May 31, 2008, at the American Memorial Park's bell tower field.

According to NMBA president Lito Espino this year's competition is dubbed Malibu Rum Challenge and will kick off at 7pm.

So far, Espino said NMBA has received 15 applicants—12 for the novice division and three for the Battle of the Champions.

The participants that have so far signed up hail from hotels and establishments like Palms Resort and Spa Saipan, Marianas Resort and Spa, Aqua Resort Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Capricciosa Restaurant, Saipan World Resort, Pacific Islands Club, Hawaii Bar & Grill, and Wonderful Bar.

Interested applicants must have the following requirements

to be eligible to join the NMBA competition:

- The maximum participant from each company is two;

- Participants are not allowed to wear any uniform or company logos representing a company;

- They will be wearing a T-shirt with print Malibu rum and pants;

- All participants are allowed to use free pouring technique on alcohol ingredients;

- No non-edible garnish or decoration that will touch the drinks;

- Participants should not use concocted ingredients, such as ice cream, chocolate syrup, etc;

- There will be a five-minute time limit;

- Participants must prepare one for display and three for tasting;

- Participants will be numbered so the judges will not know the companies they represent;

- Participants must bring their own equipment for their presentation; and

- All recipes must include MALIBU RUM main base ingredients and COCA COLA product only.

The champion from the novice category will receive a perpetual trophy, medal, cellular phone, and a \$75 cash prize. The first runner-up will obtain a trophy, medal, and PTI phone card, \$50 cash prize. The second runner-up will receive a trophy, medal, PTI phone card, and gift prizes.

Best in Taste will win a trophy, medal, and PTI phone card, and gift prizes. Best in Showmanship will receive a trophy, medal, PTI phone, and a \$50 cash prize. Best in props and costume will receive a trophy and a special award.

For the Battle of the Champions category, the winner will receive a trophy, medal and \$100,

PTI phone card, and a gift. Best in Showmanship will get a trophy, medal, PTI phone card, and a gift; and Best in Props and Costume will have a special award, trophy, and gift.

The judging criteria will be based on originality (20 percent), taste (30 percent), showmanship (30 percent), neatness (10 percent), and audience impact (10 percent), for a total of 100 percent.

Espino said all winners will receive a trophy and a medal, while all participants will take home certificate of participation."

This event is sponsored by Malibu Coconut Rum, Marianas Visitor Authority, PTI, Coca-Cola, and Duty Free Shop Galleria.

Deadline for submission of application is on May 27. For more information about the Malibu Rum Challenge, contact Espino at 323-1135. (Jacqueline Dela Cruz)

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

PTI would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on May 20th, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before May 20th.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION PTI CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

Per an earlier announcement, PTI is no longer mailing out past due notices as of 11/01/06.

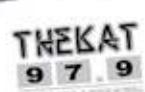
* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than May 20th. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at 682-4PTI (4784) or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.



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MAY 25, 2008 • 4:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M. • AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK



Economic stimulus payment FAQs

Following are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions regarding the economic stimulus payments. The *Saipan Tribune* will be publishing these FAQs as a series.

Q. If I live in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will I get a stimulus payment?

A. In many cases, the answer is yes. But special rules in the law apply to these five U.S. territories (possessions). In general, the tax authorities in each

possession will make stimulus payments to eligible residents. The law provides guidelines under which the Treasury Department will make payments to each possession for this purpose. People in these areas with questions about the economic stimulus payments should contact their local tax authority.

Q. Federal employees residing in some U.S. territories are required to file two tax returns, one with the territory and one with the IRS. Will two checks be issued, and, if so, should they return one of

the checks? Which check should be returned?

A. Individuals residing in the U.S. territories should receive their economic stimulus payment from the territory. If a stimulus payment is received from both the United States Treasury and the territory, the Treasury payment must be returned to the Internal Revenue Service. The U.S. territories include American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. [New 4/29/08]

Q. I have not yet filed my 2007 tax return. Can I still qualify for a stimulus payment in 2008?

A. Yes, but you must file a 2007 tax return. The IRS encourages you to file a return even if your income is low or much of your income is tax-free. File your return, if possible, by the regular April 15 deadline. If you file after April 15, with or without a tax-filing extension, your payment will be delayed. If you qualify for a payment, you can ensure that you get it by filing your return by Oct. 15, 2008.

Q. I owe some money on my 2007 tax return but the amount I owe is less than my expected stimulus payment. Can I wait to pay the balance due and simply let my stimulus payment cover it?

A. You should file your 2007 return and pay the entire balance due by April 15. You should not wait for your economic stimulus payment to offset the balance due. If you wait, penalties and interest will accrue between April 15 and the date the balance is paid, even if it is ultimately covered by the stimulus payment, which will not

be available before May. [New 2/28/2008]

Q. My spouse and I have divorced and the stimulus payment check is made out to both of us. Can I cash it?

A. If the check is made payable to both of you, then both must endorse the check. Even if you and your spouse are now divorced, both must sign the check. By law, each spouse is considered to receive half of the payment in cases where a joint 2007 return was filed.

If the filers chose to have their tax refund direct-deposited, the stimulus payment will be directly deposited into the same account that received the tax refund.

Q. Is my stimulus payment taxable?

A. No. You will not owe tax on your payment when you file your 2008 federal income tax return. But you should keep a copy of the IRS letter you receive later this year listing the amount of your payment.

Q. If my stimulus payment is not going to affect my 2008 tax refund or increase the tax I owe next year, why is it I need to retain the letter that lists how much I received?

A. In the event you do not qualify for the full amount on your 2007 return but you do on your 2008 return, you will need to have the letter as a record of the amount you previously received. [New 4/11/08]

Q. Will the payment I receive in 2008 reduce my 2008 refund or increase the amount I owe for

See ECONOMIC on next page

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 20, 1999

Air Nauru seeks OK to fly to Saipan

In a move to fast track the establishment of a regional airline, an official of the Republic of Palau has asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and key members of the CNMI Legislature to begin talks immediately on the proposal of Air Nauru to extend its service to Saipan, Palau and Manila. Sen. Santos Olikong, chair of the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Affairs of Palau National Congress, put forward the proposal to hold discussions in a letter sent recently to the governor, Senate President Paul A. Manglona and House Speaker Diego T. Benavente.

Ten slams Stayman

Upset over the failure of the Office of Insular Affairs to inform the island government regarding the appointment of Washington Rep. Juan N. Babauta as the islands' representative to the renegotiation of the Compact deal with FAS, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday chided OIA Director Allen P. Stayman for bypassing the CNMI people. The outgoing OIA official has recently named Babauta as the Commonwealth representative to the October talks between the United States and the Freely Associated States, but the governor said it was done without consultation.

Murkowski bill removes grace period for CNMI

U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski's (R-Alaska) latest immigration takeover proposal will provide a 10-year transition period to allow gradual reduction in the dependency by Northern Marianas on alien work force, while phasing in a system that will grant permanent residency to foreigners. It will also include a special provision to exempt the local hotel industry from the time restriction, allowing a five-year extension for an easy access to foreign labor pool to ensure adequate number of workers in the sector, according to the bill introduced last week in the U.S. Senate.

MAY 20, 2002

CPA posts 25-percent drop in revenue

Revenues generated by the Commonwealth Ports Authority from its airport division dropped 25 percent during the first six months of financial year 2002, indicating a slow recovery from the September 11 attacks, which grossly affected the CNMI tourism industry. A comparative report obtained from the CPA for the October-March 2001 and 2002 period disclosed that airport revenues went down 19.15 percent from \$3.6 million in October-March 2001 to \$2.9 million during the same period in 2002. The decline reflected the overall impact of the terror attacks, which affected passenger traffic at the islands' air transport facilities.

Honoring the fallen heroes

As the nation prepares to honor its war dead on May 27, Gov. Juan N. Babauta has proclaimed this week as Memorial Week, giving tribute to the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines "who have fought and died defending freedom, democracy and justice." During Friday's proclamation signing, Babauta described the courage of Americans as "a bright flame in the world-one that will continue to light our path as we uphold democracy and defend freedom throughout the nations."

Babauta mum on Senate mudslinging

Gov. Juan N. Babauta had nothing but a terse "I don't have time for that," when asked Friday to comment on reports that the \$2 million Compact Impact money that went to the Tinian High School was in exchange for the confirmation of all his nominees. This comes even as Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano belied the report Sunday, saying the comment is uncalled for and a disservice to all gubernatorial nominees who have already been confirmed by the Senate to their posts.

MAY 20, 2003

House supports purchase of Washington Rep's residence

The House of Representatives sees the practicality in the CNMI owning a residence for its Representative in Washington D.C., as opposed to merely renting a place like what the Commonwealth has been doing.

Wright: OPA knew about our standards

Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright said the Office of the Public Auditor knew about the new accreditation standards when it investigated the college's reorganization last year.



PUBLIC NOTICE

(May 19, 2008)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation wants to inform the general public that it has 16 vacant housing units available at its Liyo Housing Subdivision in Rota that are ready for immediate occupancy to income-eligible families.

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply at any of the NMHC's offices located on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota. Eligible applicants from Saipan and Tinian would be required to relocate to Rota at their own expense.

Eligibility to participate in the Section 8 Program is determined by family size and income, in accordance with Federal statutes, regulations, and NMHC's policies as provided under its administrative plan.

For more information, please contact any of the following individuals at the numbers listed above and below:

- 1) Kimo Rosario/Melinda Babauta (Saipan Office);
- 2) Frances Diaz (Tinian Field Office); or,
- 3) Nanette Atalig (Rota Field Office).

ROTA FIELD OFFICE
Contact No.: 532-9410
Fax No: 532-9441

TINIAN FIELD OFFICE
Contact No.: 433-9213
Fax No: 433-3690

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold a **Special** meeting on **Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.** at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Installation of New Member – Oath of Office
- D. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Disability Application Matters

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Announcement(s)
- B. Next Meeting
- C. Adjournment

/s/ JUAN T. GUERRERO
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members

INVITATION FOR BID IFB NO. RF08-052 General Maintenance Repairs CLOSING DATE EXTENDED

NEW CLOSING DATE: May 30, 2008

The Board of Trustees, Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (Fund), is soliciting sealed bids from private companies to conduct general maintenance repairs on the Fund building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. To receive the IFB packet, e-mail, fax, or mail your request to the following:

Mark A. Aguon, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax: 670/664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

Tinian GOP hosts party for Pete A.

The Tinian Republican Party Association hosted a gathering in honor of CNMI Washington Representative Pedro A. Tenorio last Saturday, May 17, at Tachogna Beach.

It was also held to celebrate the creation of a seat in the United States House of Representatives for a Delegate to Congress from the CNMI.

Newly elected president of the CNMI Republican Party Association, Edward Tenorio; Manny A. Tenorio, former precinct 1 Representative of the 15th Legis-

lature; and Ana Teregeyo, board member of the Northern Marianas Republican Party, joined Ramon M. Dela Cruz, President of the Tinian Republican Party Association, 1st Vice-president Edward Shai, 2nd Vice-president Tony SN Borja, Secretary Carmen Quitugua Dela Cruz and Treasurer Gabriel Evangelista in congratulating and thanking the Washington Representative for his many years of service to the CNMI and the diligence with which he pursued a Delegate to Congress position for the people

Tinian party president Ray Dela Cruz introduced the Washington Representative to the gathering, reviewing the many years of service Tenorio has given to the people of the CNMI, particularly in the arena of federal-territorial relations, beginning with the Covenant negotiations, implementation of the Covenant technical agreement, and ongoing negotiations, both as a lieutenant governor and as Washington Representative.

He also encouraged the crowd to sign Pete A.'s nominating petition, the Open Government Initiative proposed by CNMI Representative Tina Sablan, and, of course, registration forms for the Republican Party.

The Washington Representative spoke at length about how

if you attach Form 8379 to your regular 2007 federal income tax return. [New 3/25/08]

Q. How will the IRS treat a stimulus payment when there is an innocent spouse involved?

A. No, the stimulus payment will not reduce your refund or increase the amount you owe when you file your 2008 return.

Q. I don't qualify for a stimulus payment based on my 2007 return. But my tax situation will be different in 2008. Will I qualify for any special benefit?

A. Possibly. The 2008 tax instructions will include a worksheet to help those who did not qualify for a payment or those who received a reduced amount determine if they can obtain a benefit when they file their 2008 tax returns next year.

Q. I'm eligible for a payment but I still owe federal income tax from a prior year. Will my payment be reduced?

A. Yes. For this purpose, the stimulus payment is treated like any other tax refund. This means that part or all of your payment can be used to pay past-due federal or state income taxes or non-tax federal debt such as student loans and child support.

Q. How will I be notified if my stimulus payment was used to offset an outstanding debt?

A. If this occurs, you will receive a letter explaining how the stimulus payment was applied. [New 4/11/08]

Q. I am filing a joint tax return with my spouse who has a past-due obligation. How can I ensure that I still get my share of our joint stimulus payment?

A. In this situation, you are considered an injured spouse. To get your share of a joint income-tax refund, as well as your share of the stimulus payment, you can file Form 8379, Injured Spouse Allocation. You will get your share of these payments, and your spouse's share will be applied to his or her past-due federal or state income taxes or non-tax federal debt such as student loans and child support. Your allocation request will be processed more quickly

Q. Why is IRS sending out two notices on the stimulus payments?

A. The first notice will be general in nature, informing the recipient the IRS is preparing to disburse payments beginning in May. The second notice will be more specific, informing the recipient how much to expect in the payment and when it should arrive. [New 2/27/08]

Q. Is the "stimulus payment" statement required for correct processing of low-income/Social Security/VA benefits returns? Will the lack of the statement have a detrimental effect on taxpayers whose returns were filed without it?

A. No, as long as the information is in the correct place the IRS will be able to calculate the correct stimulus payment amount. [New 4/14/08]

Source: Internal Revenue Service (www.irs.gov)

of the CNMI.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Washington Representative Pedro A. Tenorio poses with supporters during a party hosted for him by the Tinian Republican Party last Saturday at Tachogna Beach.

the position of Delegate to Congress will play a vital role in coordinating the implementation of new federal regulations that are being made applicable to the CNMI. Most important for the

people of Tinian, it will mean that we will have a Delegate in Congress capable of helping the people of Tinian cope with the movement of Marines to Tinian. "Pete A.," as he is popularly

known, spent the rest of the afternoon walking through the crowd and answering questions posed by the approximately 300 people who visited the event throughout the day. (PR)

ECONOMIC

From Page 8

2008?

A. No, the stimulus payment will not reduce your refund or increase the amount you owe when you file your 2008 return.

Q. Who can sign a tax return if the taxpayer is mentally or physically unable to sign it?

A. If the taxpayer is mentally incompetent and cannot sign the return, it must be signed by a party with a valid power of attorney or a court-appointed representative who can act for the taxpayer. If the taxpayer is mentally competent but physically unable to sign the return or POA, a valid "signature" is defined under state law. It can be anything that clearly indicates the taxpayer's intent to sign. For example, the taxpayer's "X" with the signatures of two witnesses might be considered a valid signature under a state's law. [New 4/4/08]

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A. The first notice will be general in nature, informing the recipient the IRS is preparing to disburse payments beginning in May. The second notice will be more specific, informing the recipient how much to expect in the payment and when it should arrive. [New 2/27/08]

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A. In this situation, you are considered an injured spouse. To get your share of a joint income-tax refund, as well as your share of the stimulus payment, you can file Form 8379, Injured Spouse Allocation. You will get your share of these payments, and your spouse's share will be applied to his or her past-due federal or state income taxes or non-tax federal debt such as student loans and child support. Your allocation request will be processed more quickly

Source: Internal Revenue Service (www.irs.gov)

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

NOTICE OF Community Forum



TO THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMUNITY



Please be advised that the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) will be conducting statewide public forums on its **State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services for FY 2009**.

The Northern Marianas community is invited and encouraged to participate in the public forums as this is an opportunity to comment on our proposed state plans. Let us know how best the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation can and should serve people with disabilities residing in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. What are some of the barriers that currently prevent persons with disabilities from getting or keeping their jobs? More importantly, what are some of the solutions to those barriers? **Overall, how can OVR and our local communities work together to increase employment and promote independence among eligible individuals with disabilities?**

Your input into our proposed State Plan is much appreciated!

Community Forum on VR State Plan FY 2009

SAIPAN

WHEN:

May 19, 2008

(Monday)

WHERE:

Multi-Purpose Center

TIME:

5:00-6:30pm

TINIAN

WHEN:

May 21, 2008

(Wednesday)

WHERE:

Tinian Elementary

School Cafeteria

TIME:

5:00-6:30pm

ROTA

WHEN:

May 23, 2008 (Friday)

WHERE:

Tamara and Seven

Brothers Building

TIME:

5:00-6:30pm

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the Public Hearing, please contact OVR (Magin Iginoef) at least 3 days before the scheduled hearing. Copies of the plans can be accessed at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in Navy Hill, Building N2.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Detention deficit

A 34-year-old man being held in a U.S. facility for foreign detainees dies of heart failure after employees wait more than 40 minutes after his collapse to provide medical help. A permanent legal resident facing deportation because of a 10-year-old conviction for buying stolen jewelry is denied treatment for a suspected recurrence of cancer. An 81-year-old Baptist minister, seeking asylum from his native Haiti, perishes in custody after a nurse concludes he was faking illness.

Health problems misdiagnosed or ignored, detainees injected with psychotropic drugs to make them easier to transport, suicides that could have been prevented. These and other disturbing examples of neglect or incompetence were documented in a four-part series last week by Post reporters Dana Priest and Amy Goldstein that focused on the medical treatment received by the hundreds of thousands of foreigners who are shuffled through the immigration detention system every year. Some are held for legal violations that make them a target for deportation; some are seeking asylum and are being held until their cases are decided. All are in the custody of the U.S. government, which, after the 2001 terrorist attacks, abandoned its "catch and release" approach and opted for detention of all those who may be subject to deportation.

On any given day, there are roughly 33,000 detainees in custody. Over the past five years, since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, hundreds of thousands of detainees have gone through the system. The Post series documented 83 detainee deaths during this time. Given the size of the population, a certain number of deaths is unavoidable, and the Division of Immigration Health Services (DIHS), the unit of Homeland Security that provides medical care for detainees, argues that these statistics show that it provides competent care for the vast majority of those being held. The agency notes that it is prohibited from commenting on specific cases because of the privacy rights of detainees. But even some who work for the DIHS have expressed serious concerns about its ability to provide adequate care to this growing population because of staff shortages and budget shortfalls that inevitably lead to neglect or errors.

The skyrocketing rate of these detentions is not accidental; it is a direct result of an administration policy decision. The administration should rethink this policy. Does it really make sense to hold someone such as Yong Sun Harvill, the woman with the suspected recurrence of cancer, when, if released, she would undoubtedly return to her Florida home to be with her husband and seek care? If the government determines that she must be deported, it's likely she would be easily found.

Funding for the beleaguered system also must be increased. Human error cannot always be avoided, but continuing to underfund and understaff the medical care system for these detainees only increases the chances of an unnecessary tragedy. The law requires that those in U.S. custody be given adequate treatment. Simple decency demands no less.

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Stop the bus

The silly idea of mass transit on our tiny island is rearing its head again. The huge waste of money that would result from big buses careening around the island belching black ash and diesel fumes would be shameful. A mental image of near empty buses picking up an occasional straggling passenger waiting in the rain comes to mind.

Even in large cities with big populations, the mass transit systems usually lose huge amounts of money and have to be subsidized by the taxpayers. The idea of having that type of time scheduled, large capacity transportation actually work here on Saipan is an impossible dream, or rather nightmare that will cost us dearly if enacted.

It should be pointed out that we had a perfectly workable "mass transit" system operating here until a few weeks ago. It was working so well that you could go anywhere on the island, at a time of your own choosing, for a paltry \$3. We had access to good, reliable transportation without the huge costs associated with government run boondoggles. In fact, it cost taxpayers here or in the U.S. nothing at all. So what did we do to help that working transportation system along? Arrested the producers.

I'm referring to the meterless "illegal" taxi industry that has blossomed here on Saipan providing reliable and near instantaneous pick up and delivery of people to where they wanted to go. Not only was this system affordable even to the lowest paid workers on the island but by running the business efficiently, it was quite profitable to the operators of such taxies. They bought and paid for brand new, fuel efficient cars and used an on the go mobile telephone dispatch system that would be the envy of big taxi companies anywhere. All for three bucks a ride.

The private sector can do this job a lot more efficiently, environmentally cleaner and a heck of a lot cheaper than some rambling, top-heavy government bureaucracy can. I suggest we let them do what they do best; provide us all with cheap reliable transportation when we want it. Let them alone and let them do the job. They benefit and we benefit, so what is wrong with that?

The sticking point seems to be that the government does not get it's cut if done the way it was in the past. There is a simple remedy for that. I recommend a moderate increase of the fee to \$4 a ride. We still pay the taxi man \$3 for a comfortable air-conditioned ride, but we also pay the CNMI Treasury \$1 per ride. Now everyone should be happy. The taxis keep operating and provide us with a necessary and useful service, and the government collects money for...um,

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: <http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/>



being able to.

The last thing we need are big empty busses roaring around the island adding to pollution and using lots of fuel at the taxpayers expense.

■ ■ ■

A lotta regatta

Well the 33rd running of the Saipan Laguna Regatta is in the books. It is the sailboat race held annually in the Lagoon and is the longest continuously running sporting event in the Marianas (some say all of Micronesia). Hobie Cat sailors gather each year to duke it out and see who has the best skills and the most capable strategy to win the most points during several heat races held over two days.

This year the team of Tony Sterns and Janet McCullough won the coveted "Brass Bat" 1st prize given and took possession at the awards banquet held at Porky's Beach Bar in Garapan Sunday evening. Tony and Janet have won several times consecutively and seem to be the team to beat in next year's Regatta as well.

Ron Smith and Ted Parker amassed enough points to place second while Lino Olopai and Amada Rabauliman finished third. Fourth place went to the husband-and-wife team of Tyce and Angie Mister. These winners and all the competitors finished the 2 day event with smiles on their faces.

To see photos of this year's race, the Managaha picnic and the awards banquet go to www.otrc.org where photo galleries from the last several races are cached. You can also find other information about the Over the Reef Yacht Club, sponsor of the annual event at that web site or contact the club's Commodore, Ron Smith, via the website for membership or scheduling information. The club holds weekend "fun sails" off Oleai Beach from time to time and offers

See STOP on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

New Nader threatens McCain's chances

Sen. John McCain is champing at the bit to run against Sen. Barack Obama in the fall. But while the presumptive GOP nominee focuses on his likely Democratic rival, he should also worry about his own right flank. Bob Barr entered the presidential race last week as a Libertarian, in time for that party's nominating convention (which starts Thursday), and while the former Republican congressman from Georgia isn't going to become president, his run is no joke. Barr might well inherit the sizable support garnered by Rep. Ron Paul during his own run for the Republican nomination—and leave McCain sputtering the sorts of epithets usually uttered by Democrats talking about Ralph Nader.

Though Barr's promises to drastically shrink government spending, begin withdrawing from Iraq and protect civil liberties will undoubtedly appeal to capital-L Libertarians, there's little evidence that he has much of a national following. Reporters covering his announcement at the National Press Club noted that no Libertarian candidate has ever garnered more than 1 million votes and that Barr's most recent high-profile media appearance was a joke played on him in the "Borat" movie. But he could still seriously siphon votes from McCain in the fall—not because Barr is such a compelling candidate, but because he could become the vehicle for the many disaffected Republicans gathered under Paul's flag. Consider the following facts:

- More than a million votes have been cast for Paul, about 5 percent of the total cast in Republican primaries so far.
- Paul's activists are swarming local Republican party committees and conventions, quietly capturing or lining up delegates in states such as Alaska, Missouri, Minnesota, Florida, Texas and Washington.

And on the Web, the Paul movement—which, astonishingly,

generated enough grassroots support to make him the top Republican presidential money-raiser in the fourth quarter of 2007—is still going strong. His Web site is getting about 50,000 unique visitors per week, compared to 90,000 for McCain, according to data marketing company Compete.com. (The two Democratic candidates'

Clearly, one sizable chunk of the Republican base—small-government types who also oppose the Iraq war—hasn't reconciled itself to voting for McCain. In Minneapolis, at the Republican National Convention, Paul may have a couple dozen delegates and enough street presence to spoil McCain's show.

combined traffic is about six times higher.) On Google, people are searching for the term "Ron Paul" almost as often as "John McCain." And Paul's new book, "The Revolution: A Manifesto," which has been topping Amazon's sales chart for weeks, hit No. 1 on the New York Times bestseller list Sunday.

Clearly, one sizable chunk of the Republican base—small-gov-

ernment types who also oppose the Iraq war—hasn't reconciled itself to voting for McCain. In Minneapolis, at the Republican National Convention, Paul may have a couple dozen delegates and enough street presence to spoil McCain's show. These days, all it takes is one person with a Web-enabled mobile phone to put live video on the Internet, and Paul's fans have already shown how good they are at using the Web to spread messages and keep their movement going. So even if the Republicans manage to keep Paul himself off the stage at the convention, his voice will still be heard. If Barr manages to capture the attention of Paul's base, it could spell real danger for McCain.

Of course, this grassroots energy could fade by November. But consider some third-party-candidate history from 2000. While everyone has fixated on whether Ralph Nader cost Al Gore Florida, TV commentator Patrick Buchanan, running on the Reform Party banner, got enough votes in Iowa, New Mexico, Oregon and Wisconsin to tip them out of George W. Bush's hands. Ron Paul may not be on the ballot this November, but his sizable grassroots movement will probably still be looking for a champion. Bob Barr won't be president, but he could still gore McCain.



By MICAH L. SIFRY

Special to The Washington Post

Micah L. Sifry, author of Spoiling for a Fight: Third-Party Politics in America and editor of techPresident.com, which tracks how the candidates are using the Web

Letter to the Editor

Surprisingly, more CUC gibberish

In an article published on Monday, CUC executive director Muña made several statements regarding how he arrived at and justifies the current residential billing rate of 35.7 cents per kWh. However, his "explanation" falls far short of justifying those rates, and if this is all he submitted to the PUC, then the PUC needs to take a hard look at what's going on.

At first, I believed that the new rate was about right. Like it or not, I felt that it probably did approximate the current cost of producing electricity in the CNMI. However, after reading what Mr. Muña stated, I have some real doubts—but there was not nearly enough information presented to reach a conclusion based on fact.

Last October, P. L. 15-94 set the residential fuel rate at only 17.6 cents/kWh, several cents below its actual cost, thus causing CUC to operate at a loss that was supposed to be "subsidized" by—who? In his first statement, Mr. Muña said that fuel costs went up by 92.76 percent—or nearly

double—and the implication was that this happened since February.

That simply is not true. In fact, fuel cost did not increase that much even if you go all the way back to last October; it was actually something like 50 percent, from about \$80 per bbl to about \$120 per bbl—and that's from October, not February. But this was not even the most disturbing statement.

Mr. Muña stated that actual fuel (and oil) cost in February was \$5,720,195 and that CUC "billed" customers \$5.3 million leaving a short fall of only \$390,607—as it now turns out TO BE BILLED IN MAY to CUC customers. But remember the residential rate was only 17.6 cents per kWh in February. Nowhere does he indicate how many kWh's were generated and billed for, nor is the residential portion specified. Absolutely no conclusions based in fact can be drawn from such general and nebulous figures as were given. But it appears, from what was given, that

IF CUC can recover almost all its fuel cost through billing at the residential level of 17.6 cents, then there is a lot that is NOT being said.

For instance, my calculations, based on the above statement by Mr. Muña, indicate that IF every individual or business being billed during February could have been billed the mere sum of 1.25 CENTS more per kWh, for a total of 18.85 cents residential and the equivalent non-residential rates, there WOULD HAVE BEEN NO SHORTFALL IN FEBRUARY!!! Looks like, now YOU will be subsidizing that shortfall in May and every month thereafter. Ahhhh, we finally know how CUC expected to make up the difference between the legislatively mandated 17.6 cents and the actual cost—smoke, mirrors, and spit—it was there all the time!

So what does this indicate for the current period? Mr. Muña states that he used a projected usage rate of 22.2 million kWh's for May and a fuel (and oil) cost of \$7,931,308. This is

a projected increase in fuel cost of about \$2,211,113—or about 39 percent, and that's from February, not April. Unfortunately Mr. Muña did not say how many kWh's were produced and sold in his self-assigned "base" month of February, the shortest month of the year! He based the rate of 35.7 cents on projected sales of 22.2 million kWh and projected fuel costs of \$7,931,308. Where did that figure come from? How many gallons of fuel were bought in February? How many gallons will be bought in May? What were the kWh sales in February? How much was residential as opposed to non-residential? How much of the residential billing was for kWh in excess of 1000? A major question now is the kWh sales figure difference between February and May. Is May's figure higher or lower? If higher, why, and does Mr. Muña really expect people to use MORE electricity at the very high rate that few can afford to pay?

Mr. Muña stated that even the

35.7 cents may not be enough for full recovery in May. There just isn't enough data presented to make a "real" projection out of this, BUT, even without critical data, it would appear that the 39 percent increase in fuel cost from February's rate (adjusted for full recovery as explained above) of 18.85 cents should have resulted in a new residential rate of around 26.25 cents per kWh (39 percent greater than February and about 50 percent greater than November). That's a big difference.

Sounds to me like CUC may be using some of that lubricating oil for something besides its engines. PUC, you got a lotta work to do before you allow this to continue! Of course, the CUC figures could work out to be true, but the point is that CUC has only served, so far, to foment speculation, distrust, and anger in the public—and the hole gets still deeper yet.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

STOP

From Page 10

free rides and free lessons so come on out and have some fun sailing around Saipan's beautiful Lagoon. You might be the one to beat Tony and Janet next year.

■ ■ ■

People with power

Recent promises by the new CUC Director, Mr. Tony Muna, pave the way to a ray of hope. If he can nudge CUC into keeping the promises made at a recent Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting we will see the last of the rotating "brown out" power outages "sometime in June." He didn't specify whether early or late in the month, but

the promise of 24/7 electric power for all customers was made. That in itself is welcome relief.

But Muna went on to promise that by September of this year the repairs to all the engines would be complete and CUC will finally be producing more power than consumers use for the first time in quite a while. If true, that bodes well for all businesses and residential users. Instead of struggling along barely able to cope with demand, the powerhouses will have a substantial surplus of available power at long last.

Mr. Muna did not say when he would ask the biggest users, the major hotels, to rejoin the grid but that event will probably signal that the health and reliability of our power generators has been greatly improved.

Another promise he made was to be back at the next meeting of the Chamber next month in June with hard data about the actual costs to produce power and administer CUC broken down by category. He further promised to show up with ledger proven data on how much CUC actually collects versus how much is billed, and who the main non-payers are. This should be very interesting information. Most people don't mind paying the real cost of producing electricity efficiently, we just want to see what those costs and payments are. Let's hope he will be able to keep all these promises.

■ ■ ■

Or do it yourself

Many islanders are interested in generating their own power using one

or more alternative technologies and want CUC to gear up to buy or give future monthly credits for their small excess power sent back into the grid for others to use. A recent law mandates CUC be able to buy this power from individual producers. By producing more power than they use, they will be able to make their meters "run backward" showing that they are due a payment or a credit. The real accounting system is a bit more complicated.

Only a handful of people are set up to take advantage of this "sell-back" option right now but many others seem interested in moving in that direction. As the international price of oil keeps going up and the availability of reasonably priced power goes down lo-

cally, these people and their off grid systems will look more and more like self actualizing prophets of the future. Web searches will provide a wealth of information about these systems and the various options that are viable and available to you today. Right now it is still a back up system at relatively high cost but the day is fast approaching when alt power systems may outperform mass generation systems. It is worth checking out.

■ ■ ■

Quotes of the week: Life is like a taxi. The meter just keeps a-ticking whether you are getting somewhere or just standing still. Lou Erickson (It's just a job. Grass grows, birds fly, waves pound the sand. I beat people up. Muhammad Ali (1942-)

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼48
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼59
Hong Kong	Rain	▲79	▼72
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼72
London	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼42
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲61	▼46
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼75
New York	Cloudy	▲66	▼49
Osaka	Cloudy	▲70	▼53
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲67	▼47
Pusan	Sunny	▲70	▼53
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲67	▼56
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼46
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼50
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼50
Tokyo	Rain	▲73	▼55
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲65	▼53

Tides

		Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Today	5:47AM	6:40PM	Today	6:52PM	5:27AM
1:58AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	Wednesday	5:47AM	6:13AM
6:40AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	Thursday	8:36PM	7:02AM
2:09PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	Friday	9:26PM	7:54AM
9:16PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	Saturday	10:13PM	8:47AM

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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the name of contact person, and a phone number.

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily

CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6

CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota

CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily

CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily

CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via

Nagoya

NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6

CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1

OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7

OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap

and Koror

CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6

CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7

CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror

CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily

PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guangzhou

CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday

Letter to the Editor**Marine monument—Let's talk eh!**

I read with interest Mr. Gourley's letter to the editor entitled "Pew, why won't you talk about the monument" and thought, finally John wants to hear about the monument! He's been so busy raising his objections at all the presentations that he hasn't actually paid attention to what has been said! Such is usually the case when you're so narrowly focused. Anyway, maybe there's hope for an open and honest dialogue after all! Now if we could only get him to stop blowing things so far out of proportion. I quote "They (Pew people) proclaim that their preservationist approach to resource management is the only way to save the world".

Really John, is that what we (supporters of the monument concept) are saying?

I like to look at the marine protected area more like an asset an investment banker may use when planning for retirement. We all know that despite gazillions of economic studies the only way to really be sure your investments will be secure over the long haul is to diversify and make regular contributions (dollar cost averaging). You don't put all your eggs in one basket as they say. Listening to only one market segment or belief system (such as tech stocks for example) does little to hedge your bets on the future. Guess wrong and you could be on the short end of the money train.

The same can be said in the fisheries debate. Despite many advances in research abilities the fact remains our oceans are too vast and complex for anyone to really understand all the relationships and what actually goes on down there on a global basis. Whether they believe in sustainable extraction or replenishing preservation no marine scientist will tell you they know enough to make bold predictions about what the resources will definitely look like generations from now. If they do they're feeding you a crock.

So back to the analogy. We could take the waters around our 15 islands (the asset) and invest entirely in the fisheries based line of thinking (WESPAC) as we do now or we could take a portion of it and diversify by putting some eggs (islands) into another basket. By having 1/3 of our EEZ as John likes to refer to it under "protectionist" control and 2/3 under "selective extraction" control we are now hedged against an utter collapse of either system. Intuitively it might seem much more likely that a human regulated extraction system may be at greater risk of failure than say one in which mother nature is left to her own devices (as in the case of the monument) but, I digress.

In bringing John's over statement down to earth I don't think anyone is saying "preservationism" is the only way to save the world. I think there has to be a balance. Right now all our eggs (islands) are in one basket and regulated by one line of thinking. Can you say Enron?

Next in his letter, John suggests doing a Google search for "Pew anti fishing". I did and I've scanned the Top 10 results. If that's what he's looking to discredit Pew with he might want to make his point a little easier to find. Of course sometimes the best way to determine if a source is credible or not is to take a look at what they've done or said in the past and compare it to the present.

As many have done in this debate I did a Google search early on for "John Gourley Saipan." At the time the link I'm about to refer was on the first page. Now, given John's popularity in the blogging world, it's been pushed back to page 3. Interestingly the current top result for "John Gourley Saipan" is now www.saipanscuba.blogspot.com/!

Anyway, it's just easier if you simply cut and paste this title "The Impact of the Regulations Resulting from the Events of September 11th" into Google and click on the first item—be aware it's a PDF download.

The document is a WESPAC report with plenty of references by Mr. Gourley. I don't want to type out the whole section about the CNMI nor do I want to misquote or take John's words out of context so please read the file—page 11 and 12. I find his remarks quite interesting considering his number one reason for opposing the monument in the first place is the restriction on commercial fisheries.

The same industry he speaks of in these terms...

"Fishing is certainly not one of the main contributions to the economy of the CNMI... while the seas remain largely undisturbed by large commercial fishing ventures".

"Most of those who fish in the CNMI do so from smaller boats that stay within 20 miles from land. The main take by commercial, subsistence and recreational fishers is skipjack tuna".

"Despite the local fishers, CNMI must import fish (to supply demand)... If a local fisherman has a good catch, they may not have any customers due to the previous agreements with importers." (Gourley, 2002)

This is the best one...

"There is little incentive for Asian longline fishing vessels to port in Saipan because Guam is closer to the southern fishing grounds and has better facilities as well as cheaper fuel and resupplying costs. At the moment there simply is not an adequate infrastructure for the transshipment of fresh tuna". (Gourley, 2002)

Then writing about a failed commercial venture here in the CNMI.

".... they were unable to catch enough fish to make it profitable".

"While there is a growing Japanese market for skipjack, the most commonly caught fish in the NMI, Gourley suggested that high quality yellowfin and bigeye or processed loins would be the most profitable".

Doesn't this last one really stress the sound science used behind selective extraction decisions—NOT!

The rest of his statements clearly and completely contradict his current number one reason to nix the monument discussions all together and that is the protection of the commercial fishery. Come on John, let's stop trying to scare everyone into thinking the park will prevent a lucrative commercial fishery. The bottom line is it has not been feasible to this day without a monument nor is it going to be feasible in the foreseeable future with (or without) a monument. The benefits of hedging our bets while creating world wide recognition as well as preserving a portion of the archipelago for future generations to enjoy in all its glory far out weigh the possibility that a few might make ends meet selectively fishing those same waters.

John's second reason for his opposition revolves around the permanent elimination of drilling and mineral extraction from the park area. I agree 1/3 of the EEZ is a large area but, it still leaves 2/3 up for grabs should it ever become feasible to actually extract something of value out of the waters that, currently by law, the CNMI does not own anyway.

Let's be slightly realistic shall we!

And finally, we come to the third reason why John cannot support the monument. He says it is not based on sound scientific study (data) and (Pew) "still don't have any significant justification for the designation of a National Monument in the CNMI".

I'll save the benefits and justification for the monument for the next installment. I'd say they are numerous, in many cases very tangible and worth discussing eh!

Mike Tripp
Producer / Director
The Underwater World of Saipan

President
Marianas Dive

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

State Board of Education
Public School System
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID IFB 08-030

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Construction of Fences for Various Head Start Centers** Located in the CNMI. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available, for a fee of twenty (20) dollars, at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-030" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-030, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination", containing one (1) original and one (1) copy. Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid business license.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz
Acting P & S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Invitation For Bid IFB 08-029

The Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Purchase and Delivery of Mobility Equipped Vans**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-029" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-029, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3068 / 3035.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz
Acting P&S Officer

Business

Investors gird for higher oil prices

NEW YORK (AP)—The rising price of oil isn't just swelling Americans' energy bills—it's also holding back their stock portfolios.

Wall Street got some seemingly auspicious signs last week about home construction and consumer level inflation. But with oil climbing to new records, and more reports expected this week on rising prices and the housing market, investors are holding on to a conservative stance.

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—A national survey says the average price for regular gasoline rose about 17 cents in the last two weeks.

The average price of self-serve regular gasoline on Friday was \$3.79 a gallon. Mid-grade was at \$3.91, and premium was \$4.02. That's according to the Lundberg Survey of 7,000 stations nationwide released Sunday.

For the first time, the survey found average prices for regular gas surged above \$4 a gallon in

two metropolitan areas: Chicago and on Long Island in New York.

Of the cities surveyed, the cheapest price was in Tucson, Ariz., where a gallon of regular cost \$3.48 on average.

The highest average price was in Chicago, at \$4.07.

■ ■ ■

Oil's stubborn trek to record highs is a major reason why investors have yet to push the major indexes into positive territory for the year. Just this month, crude has so far tacked on about \$13 to breach \$127 a barrel, while the price of a gallon of gasoline for the average U.S. driver has soared 17 cents to nearly \$3.79.

Those price surges cast an air of skepticism over last week's report from the Labor Department showing a modest 0.2 percent uptick in consumer prices in April.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department's upbeat report on housing starts also met with some doubt among investors, particu-

larly because the huge rise was due mostly to apartment construction, which can vary widely from month to month.

"So are we at an inflection point in housing right now? Very possibly. But let's be clear here. Nothing in the data suggests we're about to see a sharp rebound," wrote Bernard Baumohl of the Economic Outlook Group LLC in a research note.

Still the market, betting that better times are not that far off, finished the week with a solid advance. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.89 percent, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 2.67 percent and the Nasdaq composite index picked up 3.41 percent.

The existing home sales report will be key this week. The National Association of Realtors is expected to report on Friday that sales of existing home fell again in April, according to the median estimate of economists polled by Thomson/IFR.

Microsoft: New talks for alternative Yahoo deal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Microsoft Corp. is once again trying to team up with Yahoo Inc. to challenge Internet search and advertising leader Google Inc., although at this point the renewed talks haven't escalated to another attempt to take over Yahoo.

The Redmond, Wash.-based software maker disclosed the revived discussions Sunday without providing any specifics about the nature of the deal being explored except to say it involved bolstering the companies' position in the online search and advertising markets.

"There of course can be no assurance that any transaction will result from these discussions," the statement said.

Yahoo had no immediate comment Sunday.

Microsoft emphasized that it hasn't resurrected a \$47.5 billion takeover bid that its chief executive, Steve Ballmer, withdrew May 3 after Yahoo CEO Jerry Yang—acting on behalf of Yahoo's board—demanded an additional \$5.5 billion.

Study finds Internet influence small when buying

NEW YORK (AP)—The Internet is routinely used when making buying decisions, but its influence is small compared with offline channels such as friends and sales personnel, a new study finds.

Sunday's report from the Pew Internet and American Life Project looked at consumer behavior in purchasing music, cell phones and homes or renting apartments. It found the Internet's role to be indirect.

"The Internet helps people eliminate irrelevant alternatives," said John Horrigan, Pew's associate director. "The Internet may influence the choice modestly but has important consequences in get-

ting better deals and in having a more focused search process along the way."

Only about 10 percent of real estate and cell phone buyers and 7 percent of music purchasers credit the Internet with having a major impact on their decision. And only a small portion—22 percent of the music buyers and 12 percent of cell phone purchasers—ultimately bought their product over the Internet.

"People do cast their information nets widely when doing consumer research," Horrigan said. "At the end of the day, though, it's the offline nugget that has more influence."

And while many people

advertising partnership that Yahoo has been exploring with Google as part of its attempts to remain independent.

Last month, Yahoo completed a two-week test that allowed Google to use its superior technology to sell ads alongside a sliver of Yahoo's search results. Since then, the two rivals have been mulling a long-term alliance that would likely raise antitrust concerns because the two companies combined control more than 80 percent of the U.S. search advertising market.

While Google's help probably would provide Yahoo with a short-term lift, it might hurt Yahoo in the long run by making Google even stronger, according to some analysts.

Ballmer already has said Microsoft will be less interested in Yahoo if it cedes control of search advertising to Google. Icahn has urged Yahoo's board not to enter into any deals, such as a Google partnership, that might diminish the company's value to Microsoft.

Horrigan suggests that consumers are so eager to use what they have just bought, they leave a product research mode and simply forget—risking turning such forums into unreliable accounts by a vocal minority.

The study is based on phone interviews conducted Aug. 3 to Sept. 5, 2007, with 2,400 adults, including 1,684 Internet users. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Nation

McCain's national finance co-chair exits over lobbyist ties



AP
Wearing dark glasses, Republican presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., smiles as he arrives at his chartered plane on Sunday, May 18, 2008, in Newark, N.J. McCain, 71, appeared on the late-night TV show "Saturday Night Live" yesterday and poked fun at his age in a comedy sketch.

WASHINGTON (AP)—

John McCain's national finance co-chairman has stepped down, the latest casualty of a presidential campaign eager to cauterize damage caused by its ties to lobbyists.

Former Texas Rep. Thomas G. Loeffler, one of McCain's key fundraisers, resigned in the wake of a new McCain policy on conflicts of interest that required campaign volunteers to disclose their lobbying connections.

"Mr. Loeffler has resigned from his position with the campaign," McCain spokesman Tucker Bounds said Sunday.

Loeffler, who runs the lobbying shop The Loeffler Group, is the highest profile departure from McCain's inner circle since a summer 2007 shake-

Obama warns seniors on Social Security

GRESHAM, Ore. (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama told seniors Sunday that Republican John McCain would threaten the Social Security that they and millions like them depend on because he supports privatizing the program.

Later he held a spectacular outdoor rally at a sun-splashed scene on the banks of the Willamette River in Portland. City fire officials estimated 65,000 packed into a riverside park with an additional 15,000 left outside. Dozens of boaters floated and listened from the river.

"Wow, wow, wow," Obama

up cost McCain his campaign manager and chief strategist.

Among Loeffler's clients is the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Co., the parent company of plane manufacturer Airbus. Northrop Grumman Corp. and EADS won a lucrative contract to provide air refueling tankers for the Air Force. McCain helped scuttle an earlier contract in 2004 that would have gone to a competitor, Boeing Co.

Loeffler's firm also has lobbied for other foreign interests and foreign governments. Newsweek reported over the weekend that Loeffler's firm was paid \$15 million by Saudi Arabia. The news magazine also said Loeffler listed meeting McCain along with the Saudi ambassador to "discuss US-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia relations," even though Loeffler told a reporter last month that he had not discussed his clients with McCain.

said as he surveyed the audience. "We have had a lot of rallies. This is the most spectacular setting, the most spectacular crowd we have had this entire campaign."

While more subdued, his appearance early in the day before about 130 people at an assisted living facility to talk Social Security was a significant attempt to tie the GOP's presidential nominee-in-waiting to an unpopular President Bush on a pocket book issue that motivates seniors—and also concerns younger generations worried about their own future retirement.

ACROSS THE NATION

Kennedy awaiting test results at Boston hospital

BOSTON (AP)—Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy remained in the hospital Sunday, awaiting test results that could explain why the 76-year-old Democrat suffered a seizure a day earlier. Doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital said it would be Monday at the earliest before the tests were complete, and the hospital and Kennedy's office released no new information about his condition on Sunday. Kennedy was resting, eating and watching the Boston Red Sox and Boston Celtics games on television Sunday afternoon, said a top aide who requested anonymity because the family had asked that details of the senator's hospital stay not be released.

Florida under dense smoke advisory amid wildfires

MIAMI (AP)—Parts of southern Florida were under a dense smoke advisory on Sunday as firefighters worked to control several wildfires that have burned about 62 square miles. The majority of fires burned around Lake Okeechobee in Glades County and on the coast in Brevard County, where a smoky haze was expected to linger throughout the day. In the area around Lake Okeechobee, the Florida Highway Patrol used electronic highway signs to warn people about lingering smoke, and areas northeast of the lake were continuing to experience

haze from the fires, said Division of Forestry spokeswoman Melissa Yunas.

Polygamist sect cases begin individual hearings

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The more than 400 children, from newborns to teens, forced from a polygamist sect's sprawling ranch during a raid six weeks ago and into foster care have been treated as a single group of abused and at-risk kids. Starting Monday, judges will filter the unruly, chaotic custody dispute into hundreds of individual cases to determine what the parents must do to get their children back or whether their parental rights will be permanently severed. This is standard operating procedure for family court, but these are hardly standard cases.

3 NIU shooting victims get posthumous degrees

DEKALB, Ill. (AP)—Hundreds of students ran screaming from the lecture hall three months ago to escape a gunman who had opened fire inside. On Saturday, while much of the rest of the Northern Illinois University campus celebrated graduation, a somber Laurel Dubowski stood outside the building's glass doors. "I'm still very, very sad," she said, her voice breaking. "I'm devastated." Earlier Saturday, Dubowski had walked onto an auditorium stage to accept a posthumous degree for her daughter Gayle Dubowski, one of five students killed in a geology class in the red-bricked Cole Hall on Feb. 14.

Asia

China: 3 days of mourning for quake victims

BEICHUAN, China (AP)—China will spend three days marking the moment when tens of thousands died in a devastating earthquake, while hope of finding more trapped survivors dwindled Sunday and preventing hunger and disease became more pressing.

The government announced an official mourning period starting Monday and asked China's 1.3 billion people to observe three minutes of silence starting at 2:28 p.m.—exactly one week after the quake killed an estimated 50,000.

The Olympic torch relay—a potent symbol of national pride in the countdown to August's much anticipated Beijing games—also will be suspended during the mourning period, the organizing committee said.

As the second week of China's worst disaster in a generation approached, the search for anyone left alive in the rubble turned glum despite remarkable survival tales among thousands who were buried.

"It will soon be too late" to find trapped survivors, said Koji Fujiya, deputy leader of a Japanese rescue team working in Beichuan, a town reduced to rubble. His team pulled 10 bodies out of Beichuan's high school Sunday.

The steady run of rescue news flashed by the official Xinhua News Agency has slowed. Just three rescues were reported Sunday, including a woman in



In this May 14, 2008 file photo, a man waits for his mobile phone to charge after a generator was brought to a temporary outdoor shelter in Dujiangyan, in China's southwest Sichuan province.

Yingxiu town who was reached by soldiers who dug a 15-foot tunnel through the wreckage of a flattened power station and had to amputate both her legs to set free, after 150 hours.

"She was in a delirious state"

and told rescuers to leave her alone, thinking she was already in a hospital, Xinhua quoted rescuer Ma Gang as saying. "We fed her milk and water, and her family was there to reassure her."

Dozens of aftershocks have

inside their homes in Calamba town when the unidentified attacker opened fire with an M-16 rifle, said the Laguna provincial police chief, Senior Superintendent Felipe Rojas. He said the lone suspect escaped, and police were investigating. He said a family feud may have been responsible. "When we interviewed the wounded, they said they just woke to the sound of gunfire and that they were hit," said nurse Rey Enriquez, who was treating the casualties at a nearby hospital. A 5-year-old and an 8-year-old were among the wounded, police said.

3 pandas missing from reserve after China quake

BEIJING (AP)—Three giant pandas are missing from the world's most famous panda reserve after the earthquake and five staff members were killed, a Chinese official said Sunday. All the pandas at the Wolong Nature Reserve were first reported safe Tuesday, but an official with the State Forestry Administration now says three are missing, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday. The reserve's other 60 giant pandas are safe, forestry spokesman Cao Qing-

rumbled through the region, extending the damage and fear of survivors. A magnitude 6 tremor on Sunday killed three people, injured more than 1,000 and caused further damage to houses and roads, Xinhua reported.

With more bodies discovered, the confirmed death toll rose to 32,476, the State Council, China's cabinet, reported. The injured numbered more than 220,000.

Many bodies lay by roadsides in body bags or wrapped in plastic sheeting, as authorities struggled to deal with the sheer number of corpses by digging burial pits and working crematoriums overtime.

Fear, secrecy kept 1950 Korea mass killings hidden

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—One journalist's bid to report mass murder in South Korea in 1950 was blocked by his British publisher. Another correspondent was denounced as a possibly treasonous fabricator when he did report it. In South Korea, down the generations, fear silenced those who knew.

Fifty-eight years ago, at the outbreak of the Korean War, South Korean authorities secretly executed, usually without legal process, tens of thousands of southern leftists and others rightly or wrongly identified as sympathizers. Today a government Truth and Reconciliation Commission is working to dig up the facts, and the remains of victims.

How could such a bloodbath have been hidden from history?

Among the Koreans who witnessed, took part in or lost family members to the mass killings, the events were hardly hidden, but they became a "public secret," barely whispered about through four decades of right-wing dictatorship here.

"The family couldn't talk about it, or we'd be stigmatized as leftists," said Kim Chong-hyun, 70, leader of an organization of families seeking redress for their loved ones' deaths in 1950.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



INVITATION TO BID NMHC ITB-08-010

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **LANDSCAPING OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS JAPAN CULTURAL CENTER** in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of Seventy Five dollars (\$75.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by U.S. law. Bidders are further advised to participate the increase of \$.50 per hour that is scheduled to take effect on May 26, 2008.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2008**, at the Northern Marianas Japan Cultural Center in Garapan, Saipan next to the Garapan Central Park, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC ITB-08-010**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, May 29, 2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 29, 2008 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than May 29, 2008 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than June 9, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 10, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, May 29, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Landscaping of the NM Japan Cultural Center". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is forty-five (45) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

World

bin Laden lashes out at Arab leaders

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Osama bin Laden released a new message on Sunday denouncing Arab leaders for sacrificing the Palestinians and saying the head of the Shiite militant group Hezbollah did not really have the strength to take on Israel.

In his second audio message in three days focusing on the Palestinians, the al-Qaida leader said the only way to liberate Palestine is to fight the Arab regimes that are protecting Israel. And he called on Muslim militants in Egypt to help break the blockade of Gaza.

Bin Laden said Muslims should ignore the Islamic prohibition against raising arms against fellow Muslims, claiming it was legitimate to rise up against leaders who are not governing according to Islamic law. Those leaders, he said, came to power “either by a military coup or with backing from foreign forces.”

“Those (Arab) kings and leaders sacrificed Palestine and Al-Aqsa to keep their crowns,” bin Laden said, referring to Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, one of Islam’s holiest sites. “But we will not be relieved of this responsibility.”

His 22-minute audiotape was posted on an Islamic militant Web site where al-Qaida leaders have issued past statements. The voice sounded like bin Laden’s, although the authenticity of the tape could not be independently verified.

Bin Laden and his deputy Ayman al-Zawahri frequently attack Arab leaders as traitors and sellouts. But they are increasingly focusing on the Palestinian



This frame grab taken from a video message carrying the logo of al-Qaida's production house as-Sahab and provided by IntelCenter, a U.S. government contractor monitoring al-Qaida messaging, shows a graphic used on the May 16, 2008, al-Qaida's as-Sahab Media release of a new video featuring an audio statement from Osama bin Laden to the people of the West about Israel's 60th anniversary.

issue in recent messages, aiming to increase their appeal to an Arab public widely sympathetic to the Palestinian plight.

Bin Laden's last audio message, released Friday to mark the 60th anniversary of Israel's establishment, vowed to continue what he called al-Qaida's struggle against the Jewish state.

With his denunciation of Arab leaders, bin Laden portrayed himself as the true defender of the Palestinian cause.

He calls Arab leaders “agents of the crusaders” and “wolves” and portrays Arab citizens as

herds of sheep who have been handed over to the wolves to look after them.

“Every day, the herd wishes the wolves would stop preying on it,” he said.

He said Israel was weak but the Arabs have not fought “even a single serious war to get Palestine back.”

Bin Laden singled out by name Hassan Nasrallah, leader of Hezbollah, whose 2006 war against Israel boosted the group's popularity among Shiites and Sunnis.

Bin Laden said Nasrallah

claimed he had enough resources, such as money and combatants, to fight Israel.

“But the truth is the opposite,” he said. “If he was honest and has enough (resources), why then he did not support the fight to liberate Palestine.”

He also attacked Nasrallah for allowing the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers in southern Lebanon “to protect the Jews.”

Sunni al-Qaida has also stepped up its criticism of Shiite Iran, the main backer of Hezbollah, accusing it of trying to dominate the Middle East.

Bush lectures Arab world on political reform

SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt (AP)—President Bush lectured the Arab world Sunday about everything from political repression to the denial of women's rights but ran into Palestinian complaints he is favoring Israel in stalled Mideast peace talks. “Freedom and peace are within your grasp,” Bush said despite scant signs of progress.

Winding up a five-day trip to the region, Bush took a strikingly tougher tone with Arab nations than he did with Israel in a speech Thursday to the Knesset. Israel received effusive praise from the president while Arab nations heard a litany of U.S. criticisms

mixed with some compliments.

“Too often in the Middle East, politics has consisted of one leader in power and the opposition in jail,” Bush said in a speech to 1,500 global policy-makers and business leaders at this Red Sea beach resort. That was a clear reference to host Egypt, where main secular opposition figure Ayman Nour has been jailed and President Hosni Mubarak has led an authoritarian government since 1981.

“America is deeply concerned about the plight of political prisoners in this region, as well as democratic activists who are intimidated or repressed, news-

papers and civil society organizations that are shut down and dissidents whose voices are stifled,” Bush said.

“I call on all nations in this region to release their prisoners of conscience, open up their political debate and trust their people to chart their future,” Bush said.

Scattered applause followed, with barely a ripple of reaction later to his declaration that Iran must not be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon.

Bush headed back to Washington with little to show for the trip. Saudi Arabia rebuffed his plea for help with soaring oil prices. Egypt's leader questioned his se-

riousness about peacemaking and there was not enough progress in the peace talks to warrant a three-way meeting of Bush with Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, did not conceal his disappointment over Bush's remarks to the Israeli parliament. The speech barely mentioned Palestinian hopes.

“We do not want the Americans to negotiate on our behalf,” Abbas said Sunday after talks with Mubarak. “All that we want from them is to stand by (our) legitimacy and have a minimum of neutrality.” Abbas had dinner Saturday with Bush.

US soldier removed from Iraq for shooting at Quran

BAGHDAD (AP)—An American sniper was removed from Iraq after he used a copy of the Quran for target practice, the military said Sunday, a day after a U.S. commander held a formal ceremony apologizing to Sunni tribal leaders.

The elaborate ceremony—in which one U.S. officer kissed a new copy of Islam's holy book

before giving it to the tribal leaders—reflected the military's eagerness to stave off anger among Sunni Arabs it has been cultivating as allies.

The tribesmen have become key in the fight against al-Qaida in Iraq militants, who depict the American forces as anti-Islamic occupiers. One anti-U.S. Iraqi Sunni group condemned the

man Col. Bill Buckner said.

American commanders launched an inquiry that led to disciplinary action against the unidentified soldier, who has been removed from Iraq, Buckner said.

Members of the local U.S.-aligned group said the Quran was found with 14 bullet holes in a field after U.S. troops withdrew from a base in the area.

WORLD BRIEFS

12 die in South Africa anti-foreigner violence

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—Emmerson Ziso fled hunger and repression in neighboring Zimbabwe, but now he wants to go back. Even his violent, chaotic homeland seems a haven compared to Johannesburg, where weekend attacks on foreigners left at least 12 dead. “Most of the Zimbabweans want to leave. It is better at home than here,” said the former teacher who was chased out of his home by a mob early Sunday. “It's spreading like wildfire and the police and the army can't control it,” Ziso said, as he tried to help register about 500 people who sought refuge at the police station in Johannesburg's Cleveland area.

Cuba: US passed dissidents private funds

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba has documented proof that U.S. officials on the island are delivering private funds to political dissidents in order to undermine the communist government, Cuban officials said Sunday. Although Cuba has accused U.S. officials of funneling federal funds to dissidents before—a charge Washington has repeatedly denied—Sunday's accusation is the first to suggest American diplomats are acting as couriers to deliver privately donated cash, outside Washington's auditing oversight. Cuban Foreign Ministry and State Security officials made the accusation in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press ahead of a detailed accusation they plan to outline at a news conference on Monday. They gave no further details.

Drug lords go after Mexican police officers

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—Drug cartels are sending a brutal message to police and soldiers in cities across Mexico: Join us or die. The threat appears in recruiting banners hung across roadsides and in publicly posted death lists. Cops get warnings over their two-way radios. At least four high-ranking police officials were gunned down this month, including Mexico's acting federal police chief. Mexico has battled for years to clean up its security forces and win them the public's respect. But Mexicans generally assume police and even soldiers are corrupt until proven otherwise, and the honest ones lack resources, training and the assurance that their colleagues are watching their backs. Here, the taboo on cop-killing familiar to Americans seems hardly to apply.

Lebanese Sunnis bitter after Hezbollah triumph

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Sunni Muslims are bitter and fearful after Shiite Hezbollah's triumph in Beirut, watching their backs on the streets and some even moving to safer spots.

It is an ominous sign of how Lebanon's latest political crisis has sharply worsened sectarian tensions in a country still traumatized by its 1975-1990 civil war.

“They entered and they carried out the plan. But who did they liberate Beirut from?” Mohammed Zaghloul, a 41-year-old Sunni, asked bitterly of Hezbollah, as he sat on a street corner in the Tarik Jadideh neighborhood, once controlled by Sunni groups.

The rise in sectarian feeling could be highly damaging to Lebanon's future and have implications across the wider Middle East, already struggling with Shiite-Sunni tensions sparked by the Iraq war and Iran's rising influence.

Until the recent fighting, Lebanon's long crisis had been largely political, as all sides worked to keep the country's ever-present sectarian issues from surfacing. But last week's

fighting roiled up sectarian anger. Unchecked, the tensions could stoke another full-fledged civil war.

For now, Hezbollah's dominance is still evident on traditionally Sunni streets, raising hard feelings, even though its fighters have largely pulled back. Hezbollah flags flutter and some images of late Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a Sunni icon, have been spray-painted over.

“It is strife already,” said Sunni leader Saad Hariri, Rafik Hariri's son and the parliament's majority leader. “How are we going to heal the wounds?”

Sunni and Shiite factions and Christians allied with both sides were in Qatar on Sunday trying to resolve the 18-month political stalemate that sparked the violence. But the talks founded on Hezbollah's insistence it would not discuss giving up its arms.

At least 67 people were killed in the clashes that saw Hezbollah and allied Shiite Amal fighters overrun positions of Saad Hariri's Future Movement and seize large swaths of Sunni areas of Beirut as the army largely stood by.

Overdrive

With Challenger, pony era roars back for short but welcome visit



LOS ANGELES TIMES
In style and power, the new Dodge Challenger builds on the heritage of its classic ancestor.

By DAN NEIL
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Let's get the unpleasantries out of the way: The Dodge Challenger is to our current economy-and-energy nexus what a bull fiddle would be to Nero's burning Rome. This reimagining of the Chrysler's E-body classic, the 1970 Dodge Challenger, is very close to the last thing the world needs right now.

Behold a \$40,000 muscle car that gets single-digit fuel economy when your boot's in it—and, come on, your boot is always in it—aimed at upper-middle-class to wealthy males between ages 45 and death. Not exactly the car of tomorrow. Last week, when the first production cars began rolling off the line in Brampton, Ontario, the average price for a gallon of sweet petroleum liquor was \$3.61 a gallon—oh, sorry, that was for regular unleaded, whereas the Challenger's 6.1-liter, 425-hp V8 would much prefer to burn premium. If that weren't enough, looming on the horizon are tough, new fuel-economy standards that will make snot-flinging V8s like the Challenger's "Hemi" the stuff of history books.

In other words, the Dodge Challenger is brilliant.

If ever a genre of automobiles needed a last hurrah, it's the pony car. In the next two years, the Challenger and the coming-soon Chevrolet Camaro will re-create the pony car wars of the late 1960s and early 1970s, and then go away for precisely the same reasons they did in the early 1970s: increasing fuel economy standards and the price of gas. I'm fascinated by the symmetry of it. Watching Camaro and Challenger go at it will be like watching the misty, misguided nostalgia of Civil War reenactments, except here both sides lose.

Before Chrysler can get to the business of building greener cars—and on this score it's the most backward of all the auto companies—it has to stay in business. To that end, the Challenger offers a huge rate of return in publicity and street cred. The car is essentially a rebodied Chrysler 300 (the same as the Dodge Charger, minus 4 inches of wheelbase), built on the same assembly line. According to the Detroit News, Chrysler spent a mere \$151 million on the program, going from concept car to Job One in fewer than 21 months. Chrysler could never make a dime off the Challenger program and happily write it off as a marketing expense. And that's almost certainly what will happen.

The relative handful of geezers who buy this

car—the 2008 model year run of 6,800 units already has been sold—will not be fretting fuel economy, the price of gas or the perspiration of polar bears. The car is aimed like a Hellfire missile at the emotional groins of boomers who have loads of cash and empty nests. The car will sell like mad for a year or two and then fall off a cliff. That will make it relatively rare, enough to give it the cachet of a collector's item. Can't wait for Barrett-Jackson, circa 2038, when this thing is worth, like, \$8 billion.

There's plenty of room for disagreement here, but if I had to identify the most iconic Mopar monster from the era, it wouldn't be the Plymouth Superbird or B-body Charger R/Ts, it would be the Challenger, simply on the strength of the 1971 movie "Vanishing Point." This comically overdrawn and faux-existential chase movie stars

with 6 inches more wheelbase (116 inches) than the old Challenger. The old car, with its sculpted turn-under and sides, seems almost delicate compared to the big, bluff neo-Challenger. Plainly, the designers had to work around the many hard points of the 300's boxy body structure. Still, they managed to hide the bulk convincingly.

There was, unfortunately, nowhere to hide the weight. At 4,140 pounds, the Challenger's poundage is the consequence of the project's short development and low budget (taking weight out of a car costs a lot of time and money). Still, there's no denying 425-hp, 420-torque V8 under the hood. This is big, cackling, evil-sounding thrust, with an angry lunge off the line and a peaky, on-the-cam feel in the upper registers. Zero-to-60-mph accel is about 5 seconds (the exhaust note has been engineered to sound like the old car) but the Chal-

lenger makes its happiest/orneriest noises at 5,000 rpm in third gear, as it snatches the air from the passing lane.

No one will adore the five-speed AutoStick transmission used here. It works fine and, yes, you can shift it much like a manual transmission using the lateral shift gate (but no steering wheel paddles). Still, I felt a little handcuffed by the positioning of the shifter. The Challenger just screams for a six-speed manual and a limited-slip diff. Both are coming to future models. One assumes the Hurst Pistol Grip will be reborn.

If you liked the handling of the Chrysler 300C SRT8, which is like swinging a 40-ounce bat, you'll love the Challenger SRT8.

The chassis development team has been hard at work tweaking the tire-and-suspension package (unequal-length arms up front and multilink in the rear, with Bilstein coilovers at four corners), so that the Challenger—even with its weight, relatively high center of gravity and roll centers—manages to stay unusually composed while cornering. Turn-in is nice and linear, the front tires bite, the rear end follows the front obediently, the lateral Gs build up until a benign and predictable understeer sets in; and then, when you pick up the throttle and unwind the wheel, the chassis settles down immediately. The steering is a touch overboosted but agreeably sensitive. The Brembo brakes shed speed without drama.

This is, obviously, no sports car but a big, muscle-bound road car, with excellent ride quality and more than adequate cornering. A good time can be had by all.



LOS ANGELES TIMES
The new Dodge Challenger, with a 6.1-liter, 425-hp V8 under the hood, is aimed at a target audience that can set aside the issue of fuel efficiency.

a white Challenger R/T hardtop (the last car ever to look cool in white) and Barry Newman, who plays Kowalski, a car-delivery driver gone Crazy Ivan. Utterly gravid with counter-culture clichés—bad cops, Jesus freaks, soul brothers, free-love sisters—"Vanishing Point" is nonetheless an essential car-guy movie, a Mopar-powered romp across the American West. I would go so far as to say that without the movie, the new Challenger would never have come to be.

And the new Challenger is a really nice car. I know—I was surprised too.

The retro-futuristic interpretation of the classic Challenger is truly ingenious, pulling all the lines and details—the blacked-out grille, the race-style fuel filler cap, hood scoops, the kicked-up character line, the overall proportions—into a visual algorithm that suggests the original car while actually being nothing like it. The new car is huge,

2008 Dodge Challenger SRT8

- Base price: \$40,095
- Price, as tested: \$40,095
- Powertrain: 6.1-liter, overhead-valve V8; five-speed automatic transmission with manual-shift mode; rear-wheel drive
- Horsepower: 425 at 6,200 rpm
- Torque: 420 pound-feet at 4,800 rpm
- Curb weight: 4,140 pounds
- 0-60 mph: 5 seconds
- Wheelbase: 116.0 inches
- Overall length: 197.7 inches
- EPA fuel economy: 13 mpg city, 18 mpg highway
- Final thoughts: A vanishing breed

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Dealership banks on plush wheels

By TOM INCANTALUPO
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

MELVILLE, N.Y.—Name a growth industry for hard economic times. Pawnshops? Used clothing? All you-can-eat greasy spoon restaurants?

How about secondhand Ferraris?

On Long Island, two veteran businessmen are betting, despite difficult economic times, that they can sell pricey pre-owned exotics made by Ferrari as well as Lamborghini, Maserati and other automotive dream makers. For those who prefer a domestic model, the also-expensive 1967 Camaro Z28 is available.

If nothing less than new will do, direct your attention to the Swedish-built Koenigsegg CCX, an 806 hp., 245 mph low-volume sports car, whose price begins at \$1.35 million and ranges up to \$2.3 million for a 1,000 hp. variant. The only other U.S. dealership for the car is, of course, in Las Vegas.

There is a \$59,000 2003 Mercedes-Benz SL55 AMG at the dealership, although a vintage 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle just prepped in the service shop will undercut it—at \$52,000.

Giacomo Ciaccia, 42, of the Bronx, and his childhood friend and partner, businessman Luke Vuksanaj, 40, of Westchester County said they aren't worried about opening a business catering to luxury tastes in a time of economic uncertainty. "In this business, customers are at a different level," said Ciaccia, a native-born Italian who worked for Ferrari for 11 years.

And not likely to be concerned about \$4-a-gallon gasoline but, just for the record, its manufacturer says the twin-supercharged V-8-powered Koenigsegg averages about 19 miles per gallon, though it needs premium gas.

Nationally, sales of new Ferraris are down this year through March by 7.5 percent, to 405 cars, but sales of Lamborghinis are up by 2.4 percent, to 252 cars, according to the trade paper Automotive News.

Automotive analyst Rebecca Lindland of the economic forecasting company Global Insight Inc. said some first-time buyers of exotic cars appear to be hesitating because of economic conditions.

"People new to the segment, ordering their first Ferrari, their aspirational vehicle—these are the people we don't see coming into the market," she said. But partners Ciaccia and Vuksanaj said they expect to sell only six to 10 cars a month in their first year. Said Lindland, "I think there are still enough people who can swing a Ferrari. They should do just fine."

2008 Marianas March Against Cancer

Photos By
JACQUELINE
HERNANDEZ



Team Bodig won the family category as they raised \$14,302, Most candles sold with 1,037 candles, most spirit and best tent.



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial delivers his remarks while 2008 Miss Marianas Teen Ariel Cherie St. Clair looks on.



Cancer survivor Terry Iginoef gets emotional as she delivers her inspirational speech during the opening ceremony. Also in photo is 2008 MMAC committee member Celia Mercado.



Team Hopwood Junior High School students display the "I love you but please be quiet" sign.



A luminary dedicated to Former Philippine President Corazon "Cory" Aquino who is suffering from colon cancer is seen during the event.



CNMI's youngest cancer survivor 6-year-old Juan Vicente Blanco, who is battling leukemia, marches with his family.



Team Northern Marianas College was awarded the baton title.



Hundreds of luminaries were lit to remember those who have lost the battle against cancer, and so that the community can honor those who have survived or are currently suffering from this affliction.



Marianas March Against Cancer participants run for a cause.



Team Whispering Palms was in full strength in the 2008 MMAC.



Team Marriage Encounter raised \$2,662.



Bank of Guam and Garapan Elementary School were well represented in the 2008 MMAC.



Team Magi pose at the 2008 MMAC.



Rica Ada waves goodbye to the organizers shortly after receiving her medallion during the ceremony. Rica has been living with a rare and aggressive form of bone cancer since she was a little girl.

Team Tan Holdings Corp. celebrated the life of *Saipan Tribune*'s late publisher John 'JP' Panglinan.

Grace Christian Academy won the school category award as they have raised \$3,094.



Team PTI and Marianas High School.



Team Pacific Islands Club received the business award as they raised \$8,543.



Team Ahu come in full force during the 2008 MMAC.



Department of Public Health's Team Hinemlo.



Team Marianas Health Services took this year's title of Most Laps as they ran a total of 782 laps.



Team Hyatt gather around their baton.



John Blanco carries his son, the CNMI's youngest cancer survivor 6-year-old Juan Vicente, during the parade.



Team Frenz Gi Hinemlo pose at the 2008 MMAC.

Life & Style

'Indiana Jones' debut survives Cannes critics

CANNES, France (AP)—Indiana Jones received louder applause going in than he did coming out.

His latest adventure, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," earned a respectful—though far from glowing—reception Sunday at the Cannes Film Festival, avoiding the sort of thrashing the event's harsh critics gave to "The Da Vinci Code" two years ago.

Yet Indy's fourth big-screen romp is not likely to go down as one of the most memorable. Some viewers at its first press screening loved it, some called it slick and enjoyable though formulaic, some said it was not worth the 19-year wait since Steven Spielberg, George Lucas and Harrison Ford made the last film.

"They should have left well enough alone," said J. Sperling Reich, who writes for FilmStew.com. "It really looked like they were going through the motions. It really looked like no one had their heart in it."

Alain Spira of French magazine Paris Match found "Crystal Skull" a perfectly acceptable "Indiana Jones" tale, a sentiment echoed by the solid applause the movie received as the final credits rolled.

"It's good. It's a product that is polished, industrial, we're not getting ripped off in terms of quality," Spira said. "You know what you're going to see, you see what you get, and when you leave you're happy."

The applause was louder at the outset, though. Fans at the early afternoon showing, which preceded the film's glitzy for-



From left, American actor Shia LaBeouf, American producer George Lucas, American director Steven Spielberg, American actor Harrison Ford and Australian actress Cate Blanchett pose for photographers at the "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" photo call during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France, on Sunday, May 18, 2008.

mal premiere with cast and crew Sunday night, cheered and clapped wildly at an announcement that the screening was about to start. Some even hummed the Indiana Jones fanfare as the lights went down.

The applause at the end was more subdued.

Cast and crew were unconcerned about how critics might dissect the film.

"I'm not afraid at all. I expect to have the whip turned on me," Ford told reporters after the screening. "It's not unusual for something that is popular to be disdained by some people, and I fully expect it."

But, he said: "I work for the

people who pay to get in. They are my customers, and my focus is on providing the best experience I can for those people."

The filmmakers kept the movie shrouded in secrecy, skipping the rounds of press screenings often held for big studio movies and going for a big blowout at Cannes.

Spielberg said he and his collaborators decided "that the fair thing to do and the fun thing to do would be to view it where the entire world is come together every year at this wonderful festival, and we thought that was the best place to introduce Indiana Jones to you again after 19 years."

The film received none of

the derisive laughter or cat-

calls that mounted near the end of the first press screening for "Da Vinci Code."

There were a few titters from the "Crystal Skull" crowd early

on over co-star Cate Blanchett's thick, Boris-and-Natasha accent as a Soviet operative racing against Indy to find an artifact of immeasurable power. The rather corny romantic ending also drew a chuckle or two.

In between, the film packed a fair amount of action, though some viewers found the middle portion dull. Conchita Casanovas, of Spain's RNE radio, said she was "bored to death."

The new movie hurls archaeologist Jones into the Cold War

in 1957. He survives a nuclear blast in the desert in typically creative fashion and is reunited with "Raiders" flame Marion Ravenwood (Karen Allen).

As speculated, the film has an alien connection, though far more subdued than the "Indiana Jones and the Saucer Men From Mars" story Lucas once envisioned.

There are melancholy nods to Sean Connery, who played Indy's dad in 1989's "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" but declined to return for the new movie, and the late Denholm Elliott, Indy's college dean in two of the previous movies.

And the film reveals the relationship between Indy and his

new sidekick, an angry young motorcycle rebel played by Shia LaBeouf.

As with "Da Vinci Code," which went on to gross \$758 million worldwide, "Crystal Skull" is so hotly anticipated that it will be virtually immune from critics' opinions. The film is expected to put up blockbuster box-office numbers when it opens globally Thursday.

"The movie was absolutely effective enough to score with audiences everywhere," said Anne Thompson, deputy editor of Hollywood trade paper Variety. "This played way better than 'Da Vinci Code.' No one was gunning for it. They were excited going in, hooting for it in a positive way."

Dozens of fans prowled outside the Palais, the Cannes headquarters, holding signs saying they needed tickets for "Crystal Skull."

Amelia Sims, a 19-year-old University of Georgia student studying abroad, held a sign reading "I (heart) Indy." She managed to get a pass to the press screening and loved the movie.

"I guess I've been waiting 19 years for this," Sims said. "You could say I've been waiting my whole life."

But Christian Monggaard, who is reviewing "Crystal Skull" for Danish newspaper Information, said he grew up with the "Indiana Jones" films and came away from this one disappointed, finding the climax an "overblown special-effects extravaganza."

"Talk about a woman scorned," Monggaard said. "A fan scorned is even worse."

'Prince Caspian' pushes 'Iron Man' off throne

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" dethroned "Iron Man" as ruler at the box office, pulling down \$56.6 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Walt Disney Co.'s action sequel took in less domestically in its opening weekend than "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe," which sold \$65.6 million in North America in its debut weekend in December 2005. "Caspian" also raked in \$20.7 million overseas.

But Disney expects the PG-rated movie, based on the C.S. Lewis fantasy series, to ride high through the coming Memorial Day weekend. The first "Narnia" tale grossed \$745 million worldwide over its theatrical run.

"This is a film that we think is going to play all summer long and it's got nothing but school holidays in front of it," said Mark Zoradi, president of the Walt Disney Studios Motion Picture Group.

Disney is in pre-production

on the third of the series, "The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader," set for release in the summer of 2010.

Marvel Studios' "Iron Man" slipped to second place after two weeks at No. 1 with \$31.2 million, bringing its domestic total to \$222.5 million.

Paul Dergarabedian, president of tracking firm Media By Numbers LLC, said the flawed superhero flick is holding its appeal better than "Spider-Man 3" did the previous May.

"Iron Man" continues to hold very well," he said. "It's definitely cutting into audiences across the board."

The 20th Century Fox comedy "What Happens in Vegas," starring Cameron Diaz and Ashton Kutcher, came in third, with \$13.9 million in its second weekend. Its domestic total reached \$40.3 million, well

above its \$35 million budget.

"It's clearly the comedy, non-family movie in the marketplace right now," said Chris Aronson, a Fox senior vice president.

Warner Bros.' disappointing "Speed Racer" slowed to \$7.6 million for fourth place, driving

1. "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian," \$56.6 million.
2. "Iron Man," \$31.2 million.
3. "What Happens in Vegas," \$13.9 million.
4. "Speed Racer," \$7.6 million.
5. "Baby Mama," \$4.6 million.
6. "Made of Honor," \$4.5 million.
7. "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," \$2.5 million.
8. "Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay," \$1.8 million.
9. "The Forbidden Kingdom," \$1 million.
10. "The Visitor," \$687,000.

in \$29.8 million over two weeks.

The studio said it was not ready to call it game over on the Wachowski brothers movie, which cost \$120 million to make.

Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' executive vice president of distribution, said next weekend was "do or die" for the movie.

Overture Films' acclaimed

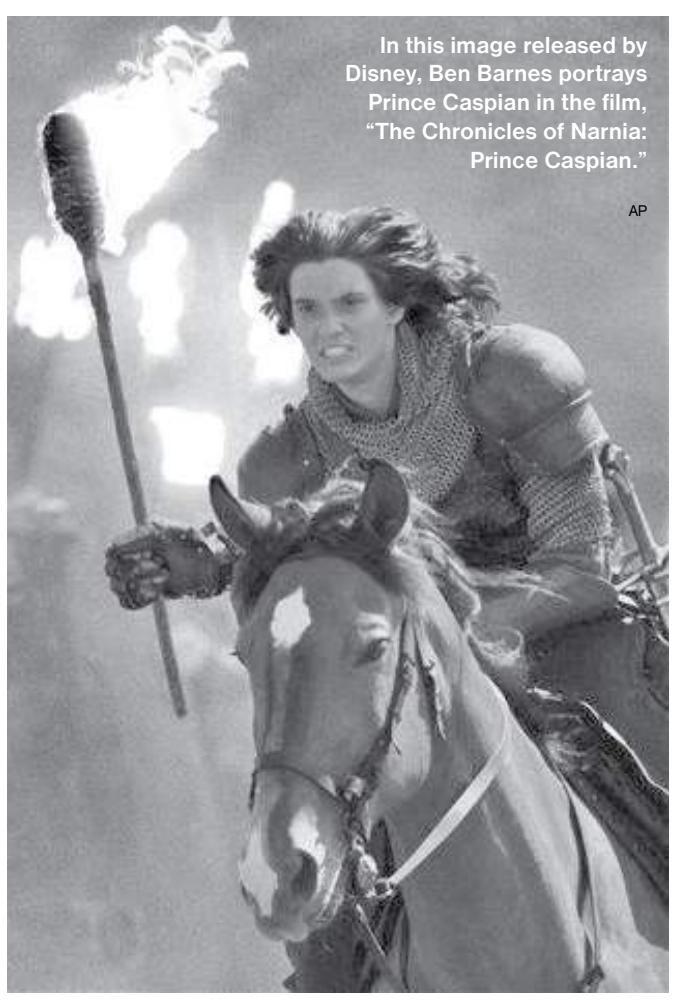
drama, "The Visitor," crept into 10th place at the box office with \$687,000.

The distributor picked up the indie film, about a professor who discovers a couple living in his little-used New York apartment, at the Toronto Film Festival for a reported \$1 million. It has grossed \$3.4 million so far.

"It's good to know that you don't have to have special effects in your movie to make money," said Overture Films' senior vice president Adam Keen.

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," which received a somewhat ho-hum reaction at the Cannes Film Festival on Sunday, whips its way into theaters on Thursday.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.



In this image released by Disney, Ben Barnes portrays Prince Caspian in the film, "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian."

AP

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



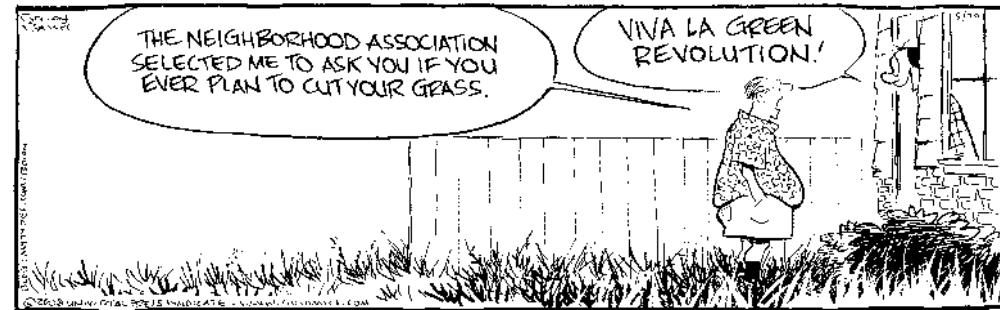
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Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



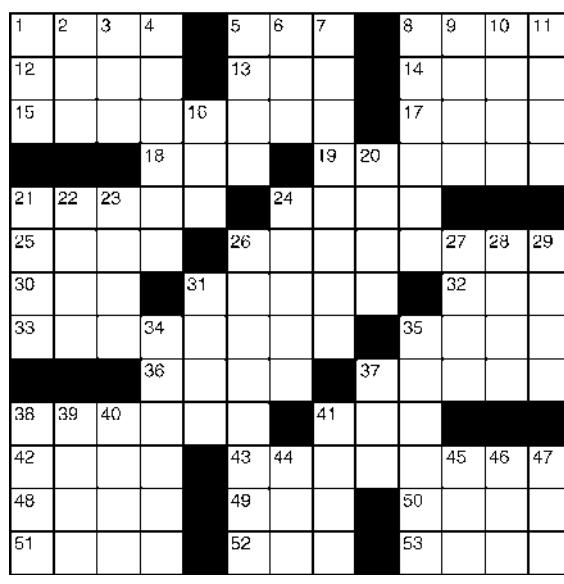
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bus-ta Rhymes, 36; Cher, 62; Joe Cocker, 64; Stan Mikita, 68

Happy Birthday: Don't take the ones you love or partner with for granted. Do not let anyone stand in your way but do express your needs and hopes. Honesty will get you through the year ahead and, if someone in your life can't live with what you want to do, you may have to rethink your relationship with this person. Your numbers are 3, 15, 24, 29, 35, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Discuss and close deals and make investments that will ensure you get ahead monetarily. Turn the fight for financial freedom into a creative endeavor. You have the determination and the talent to take something you can offer and turn it into gold. **★★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let opportunity pass you by because you fear rejection or failure. You should attend meetings, tradeshows or anything else that will help you decide what best suits your needs to get ahead in the future. Do your research. **★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): There will be a chance to take an interesting encounter and turn it into a viable partnership that is equally as good for you and the other person involved. Power of persuasion will be effective in your pursuits. **★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Go full tilt ahead when it comes to accomplishing work-related goals. Be aggressive if you want to score. Change will be to your advantage.

A chance to make some cash is evident so don't back away because you are afraid. **★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your entertaining, generous nature will attract some high-rollers who can make a difference to your future. If you let someone fearful or threatened of your success stand in your way because of an emotional connection, you may miss out. **★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be bamboozled by someone who is looking out for his or her own interests. Take the initiative, do your own thing and you will have followers and opportunities that far exceed your expectations. You are a leader today so don't back down or give in. **★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stop procrastinating. Travel is in the stars or picking up information or learning something new, so don't wait for things to come to you. Actively pursue your dreams, hopes and wishes. **★★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you can talk a good talk, others will follow suit and jump on your bandwagon. Don't settle for second best. You are better and more talented so show what you have to offer. **★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be a little emotional today, especially if someone corners you looking for answers of a personal nature. Stay calm but don't stretch the truth in order to avoid consequences that will arise, regardless of what you say now. **★★**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can prove your point, make amends, collect old debts or even make settlements

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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if you take a strong position and force issues that you believe in. Others will bend to your needs if you are a powerhouse who has covered all the bases. **★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Give something new a try and you may find yourself moving into a new position or making money doing something you enjoy. Taking a stab at explaining how you feel to someone you love will bring a positive response. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional upset is likely if you are secretive or try to get away with something. Your best bet is to say what you want and see what you can get. Someone will respect your honesty and help you out. **★★**

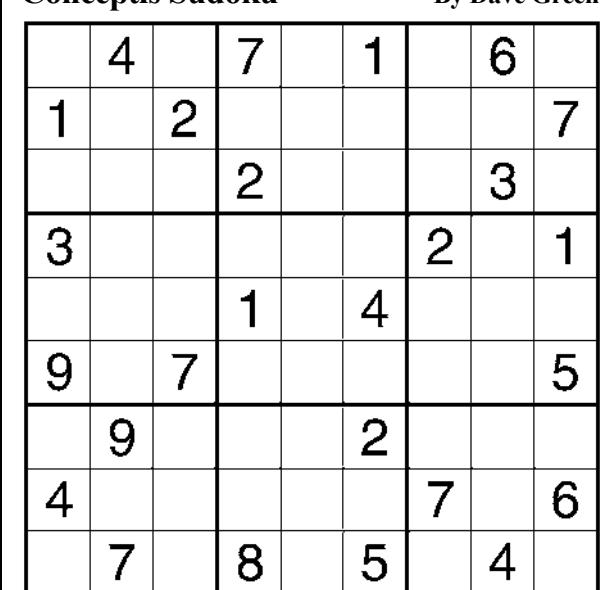
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SUDOKU

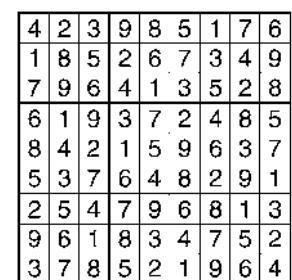
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



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N N S E A W E E D S E L C Y C
A E I U O S P E C I E S A M Y
R M G R P H T R A E V N C B G
B T G Y A P P G L F O E A I R
M A P G X M L E R B S E R O E
E E A O I O A E A A M U B S N
M R D L O V N C M O S S O I E
C T A I E L T M I E I S N S D
O H R S B E S S E N N I P B Y
R I A O R L T T O N A T U R E
A U L I P R E T A W G O R O S
L S A S N I S K C O R O P W N
S S N E M I C E P S O R L N O
P R O D U C T S L I C H E N W

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Yesterday's Answer: Scenic

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Pierce scores 41 to lead Celtics to finals



Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce drives past Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James during the fourth quarter of the Celtics 97-92 win in Game 7 of an NBA Eastern Conference semifinal basketball series in Boston on Sunday, May 18, 2008. AP

BOSTON (AP)—Paul Pierce returned home and made sure the Celtics would play there again. Boston's captain scored 41 points—and still lost a shootout with LeBron James with 45—but led the team with the NBA's best regular season record to a 97-92 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Sunday in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The conference finals begin Tuesday night against the Detroit Pistons in the same arena where the Celtics have won 14 straight games and are 8-0 in the postseason.

"Before the year our goal was to be there in Game 1 at home and that's where we are," Boston coach Doc Rivers said. "So we're exactly where we should be."

Home teams are 22-2 in the second round of this season's playoffs. But the Celtics are 0-6 on the road in the postseason after Friday night's 74-69 loss in Cleveland. On Sunday, they never trailed but they never were safe until the final seconds.

Pierce hit two free throws with 7.9 seconds left for the final points, then

James missed a 3-pointer on the last shot of the game with 4.4 seconds to go.

"I had it going, LeBron had it going and we just didn't let up," Pierce said. "Neither one of us wanted our teams to lose."

Sasha Pavlovic's 3-pointer made it 95-92 with 8.6 seconds left and the Cavaliers immediately fouled Pierce. His first shot hit the rim, hung in the air, then fell through as the crowd roared. Pierce said team patriarch Red Auerbach, who died in October 2006 at age 89, had something to do with that.

"The ghost of Red just looking over us," Pierce said. "I think he kind of tapped it in the right direction. It sort of put a smile on my face."

Pierce's second free throw was much smoother, making it 97-92.

Cleveland raced downcourt and James hoisted a 3-pointer that missed with 4.4 seconds to go. The Cavaliers got the rebound and James waved for the ball from the same spot he had just missed from.

But Boston's Eddie House intercepted the pass and, as the final seconds ticked off, James turned and walked toward his bench, his chances of reaching the East finals dashed on

the court where the Cavaliers were 0-6 this season.

"Boston did their work during the regular season to put themselves in this position" to play Game 7 at home," Cleveland coach Mike Brown said.

Still, the Celtics were pushed to the limit for the second straight series. They did dominate Atlanta in Game 7, winning 99-65, but had a much tougher time eliminating Cleveland.

But now they're unbeaten in the 29 series in which they've led 3-2.

"Today it was basically get the ball to Paul Pierce and get the hell out of the way," Kevin Garnett said.

Garnett added 13 points and P.J. Brown came off Boston's bench to score 10 and grab key rebounds.

Delonte West was the only other Cleveland scorer in double figures with 15.

The Celtics led 50-40 at halftime, but the Cavaliers cut that to 52-49. It was 61-58 before Boston stretched its margin to 67-58 by scoring the next six points.

But Cleveland kept coming back and trailed by just 73-68 going into the fourth quarter.

The Celtics got a scare when Pierce

was fouled by Pavlovic on a drive to the basket and fell on a video cameraman under Boston's basket with 23 seconds left in the first half. Pierce got up slowly and, after a 20-second timeout, made two free throws.

He stayed in the game for all but the last 4.2 seconds of the half, then left for treatment of a bruised left thigh but played most of the second half.

Many fans in the full house were clad in green shirts. Lucky the Mascot held up a sign reading "ROCK THE GARDEN!" and the crowd roared. Pierce got the loudest ovation when he was introduced with his nickname, "The Truth."

And when the game started, one fan bellowed, "Not today, LeBron."

With smoke from pregame pyrotechnics still rising toward the rafters where Boston's 16 championship banners hang, the Celtics got off to a strong start. They rolled to a 16-4 lead—with Pierce scoring nine—but the Cavaliers closed it to 29-23 with 7:20 left in the second quarter.

That's when James left the game for the first time, replaced by Pavlovic, and the Celtics got the next five points before James returned less than 1 1/2 minutes later.

Lakers' Bynum to undergo knee surgery Wednesday

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—More than four months after Andrew Bynum injured his left knee, it's been decided the Los Angeles Lakers center will undergo arthroscopic surgery.

The Lakers made the announcement Sunday, saying Dr. David Altchek will perform the procedure in New York on Wednesday—the same day Bynum's team entertains San Antonio or New Orleans to begin the Western Conference finals.

An estimated timetable for Bynum's return will be provided following the surgery.

"I just hope for the best for him," teammate Luke Walton said following a light practice Sunday. "He was a huge part of our success early on and he's going to be a huge part of our future."

The Lakers said the procedure will entail a cleanup of some rough spots and fraying on the underside of Bynum's kneecap.

Bynum hasn't played since injuring his knee in the third quarter of a 100-99 victory over Memphis on Jan. 13 at Staples Center. The 20-year-old center averaged 13.1 points, 10.2 rebounds and 2.1 blocked shots in 35 games.

The Lakers estimated a day after Bynum was injured that he would be sidelined eight to 12 weeks. But coach Phil Jackson said April 21 that a return this season was remote, and Bynum said much the same thing shortly thereafter.

Dr. Altchek examined Bynum in New York on April 10 and declined to clear him for practice. The 7-footer was examined again May 7 in Princeton, N.J., by Dr. Steven Gecha, who said there had been some improvement in the knee, but recommended exploratory surgery if there wasn't more in the ensuing three to four weeks.

The decision was made a lot sooner than that.

"It's hard, I know that he is probably really frustrated right now," Lakers guard Sasha Vujacic said. "He's going through tough times. We miss him. Everybody knows he's going to have a good, long career in the NBA. He'll come back when he's ready."

Despite Bynum's absence, the Lakers went 57-25 to earn the top seed in the West, and 8-2 to eliminate Denver and Utah from the playoffs to reach the conference finals for the first time since 2004.

LeBron can't save Cavs despite memorable Game 7

BOSTON (AP)—Unable to carry the Cleveland Cavaliers to a win, LeBron James will have to settle for a memorable performance in a loss.

James scored 45 points on 14-of-29 shooting in the Cavaliers' 97-92 loss to the Boston Celtics in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals on Sunday. His teammates mustered very little, including Wally Szczerbiak, who was scoreless, but James didn't blame anyone.

"We just tried to put ourselves in a position where we could try to get back in and we did, we just didn't come through," James said. "I'm not disappointed in any of my teammates or in any of my coaching staff."

James' effort in Game 7 was overshadowed by Paul Pierce, who scored 41 points and matched him shot for shot. The battle was reminiscent of the 1988 duel between Larry Bird and Dominique Wilkins, who combined for 81 points during Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals in which Boston beat Atlanta 4-3.

"I love going against the best and Paul is one of those guys," James said. "We both tried to will our team to victory and, just like Dominique Wilkins, I ended up on the short end and the Celtics won again."

Swept by San Antonio last year in the NBA finals, the Cavaliers tried to get James the help he needed with a big move at the trade deadline.

General manager Danny Ferry acquired Delonte West and Szczerbiak from Seattle and pried Ben Wallace and Joe Smith from the Chicago Bulls on Feb. 21. Unfortunately for the Cavaliers, there was marginal improvement, as they struggled to a 15-13 record over the last 28 games and never got into any rhythm because of injuries.

"What we have is very good. We need to continue to get better. We know that if that means some personnel changes need to happen, then so be it," James said. "Right now I'm not thinking about it, but we do need to get better. The teams around us in this league are continuing to get better," including Orlando, the Los Angeles Lakers, Detroit, Boston and New Orleans.

West, who scored 15 points, played well after being traded and knows James can still improve.

"The setup for his growth is unreal, him being 23 years of age, and the way he's playing," West said. "The way Paul and LeBron competed today against one another, you've just seen a whole other generation of superstars battle."

Szczerbiak, who had been traded from Boston to Seattle before the season, spoke of the loss in a subdued locker room.

"I just can't describe it," he said. "We worked so hard, came so close. It's just tough."

After struggling through the first four games, shooting 20-for-78, James finally broke through with 35 points in Game 5 in Boston and followed that with 32 in Game 6.

"When I lost four straight games in the finals, I knew I had to get extremely better," James said. "Now I don't need to reinvent anything, just fine tune my game."

He has extra time to do that now that his season is over.

"I always want to win," James said. "I'm just disappointed that the season is over."

Imada wins AT&T Classic playoff

DULUTH, Ga. (AP)—Ryuji Imada stood atop the ridge that overlooks the 18th green at TPC Sugarloaf, wondering about all that commotion down below. Could it be? Yep, someone else was in the water.

One year after losing a playoff at the AT&T Classic when he knocked a shot in the pond, Imada won the same tournament Sunday under nearly identical circumstances for his first PGA Tour victory. This time, Kenny Perry came up wet on the 73rd hole.

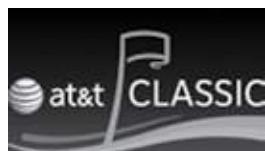
“I never really believed in destiny,” Imada said. “But I’m starting to believe it.”

The two finished regulation at 15-under 273, but Perry’s ball wound up in the water on the first playoff hole even though his second shot easily cleared the pond in front of the green.

Unfortunately for Perry, he struck a pine tree behind the green about 10 feet up the trunk. The ball ricocheted straight back across the putting surface and didn’t stop rolling until it was in the water, the gallery groaning in disbelief.

“I couldn’t really tell what happened,” said Imada, who was standing alongside his ball after driving in the rough. “I asked a couple of people and one of them said it was close and another said it was in the water. That’s why it took me so long to make the decision to lay up.”

Imada played it safe with an iron on the par-5 hole and wound up two-putting for the



winning par.

After taking a drop, Perry nearly spun back his wedge into the cup, then missed a 14-footer that would have forced another extra hole. The 31-year-old Imada stepped up and calmly knocked his ball straight in from 4 feet for the victory.

“I left myself a tester,” he said. “I’m glad it went in.”

Imada has been a runner-up three times on the PGA Tour, including twice already this season. A year ago, he got into a playoff with Zach Johnson at the suburban Atlanta tournament, only to lose when he knocked his second shot into the same

pond that claimed Perry’s ball.

A native of Japan, Imada had plenty of fans cheering him on; he attended the nearby University of Georgia. As he walked off the green after his winning putt, a few fans woofed it up. In the interview room, someone yelled, “Go Dogs!”

Imada was already pondering what his win means for 2009—an extra trip to Georgia. To be more specific, Augusta National.

“I know I get invited to the Masters now,” he said, breaking into a big smile. “I always dreamed of playing there since I was a kid. I can’t wait to see what it’s like.”

Imada needed a birdie on the 72nd hole just to get in the playoff. Trailing Perry by a stroke, he was right of the green with a 3-wood, but chipped up to 4 feet and made

the putt for a 5-under 67.

Perry, a nine-time tour winner playing in the final group, still had a chance for the outright win with a birdie of his own. He chose to lay up with his second shot, but his wedge from 118 yards wasn’t nearly as close as he wanted. He misread a 25-foot putt and settled for a 69, his fourth straight round in the 60s.

He probably wishes he had laid up again on the extra hole.

“I hit a beautiful 5-wood,” Perry said. “I must have been pumped up because it hit the tree trunk over there and shot across the green into the water. What are you going to do?”

Camilo Villegas shot a 66 but missed an eagle putt at the 72nd hole that would have gotten him in the playoff. He wound up one shot back. Jonathan Byrd was two strokes behind in fourth, but no one outside of Perry was kicking himself as much as Parker McLachlin.

He appeared to be pulling away for his first PGA

Ryuji Imada, of Japan, poses with the trophy after winning AT&T Classic golf tournament in Duluth, Ga., Sunday, May 18, 2008.

Tour win when he eagled out of a bunker at No. 13, giving him a three-stroke lead.

But the pressure of being in contention for the first time clearly got to McLachlin down the stretch.

The 29-year-old bogeyed three of the last five holes to finish with a 67 and a 276 total, three shots out of the playoff.

“You’ve got your nerves going,” McLachlin conceded.

“You’re trying



to steady yourself, but the wind is blowing so hard, it’s hard to steady yourself.”

That was never more apparent than at the final hole. McLachlin outdrove his two playing partners and was in virtually the same position as the two previous days, when he made eagle and birdie at the par-5 18th.

After Matt Kuchar and Dan Forsman both cleared the water from farther away, McLachlin was ready to attempt the same with a hybrid.

But as he looked down at the tiny green below, the wind that had been gusting strongly all day suddenly shifted and started blowing right in his face. McLachlin hovered there for a good 5 minutes, first pulling a 3-wood from his bag, then switching to an iron for the lay-up.

The gallery down below began to grumble, then broke into full-scale heckling when they saw he was playing it safe.

McLachlin said he had no choice, but the move backfired. He wound up missing a long birdie putt, then lipped out a 3 1/2-footer for par.

“I just wasn’t set up right, so I had to take my medicine,” McLachlin said.

“I couldn’t wait around 20 minutes to hit a shot,” before adding with a grin, “though I tried to.”

Charles Howell III went into the final round with a one-stroke lead, but he couldn’t close it out for his third tour win. The Augusta native struggled to a 74 and finished four shots back.

Perez, Reyes lead Mets to two-game sweep at Yankee Stadium



**N E W
Y O R K**
(AP)—

O liver Perez shut down the slumping New York Yankees, Jose Reyes homered for the second consecutive game and the Mets cruised to an 11-2 rout Sunday for a rain-shortened sweep of their crosstown rivals.

Ryan Church also homered and Moises Alou drove in three runs for the Mets, who beat Wang Chien-ming and won a series at Yankee Stadium for only the second time since interleague play began in 1997. They took two of three in 2005.

Perez (4-3) pitched three-hit ball for a season-high 7 2-3 innings, handing the Yankees their fifth loss in six games. The so-called Bronx Bombers, missing injured sluggers Alex Rodriguez and Jorge Posada, have scored only 12 runs during that stretch while falling to a season-worst 20-24.

Hideki Matsui homered for the Yankees.

Reds 6, Indians 4

At Cincinnati, Adam Dunn

homered for the fourth straight game, and Joey Votto finished off Cliff Lee with the first pinch-hit homer of his career to cap Cincinnati’s three-game sweep of Cleveland.

Lee (6-1) came into the game on an amazing run, having allowed only four earned runs and one homer all season. Cincinnati’s left-handed swingers got the best of him, deciding a matchup of the majors’ two stingiest starters.

Astros 5, Rangers 4

At Arlington, Texas, Brandon Backe pitched into the seventh inning, Miguel Tejada had three hits and Houston beat Texas.

Backe (3-5) retired the first nine batters of the game and didn’t give up a run until allowing consecutive homers to Milton Bradley and David Murphy in the seventh.

White Sox 13, Giants 8

At San Francisco, Nick Swisher hit a tiebreaking three-run double in the eighth as a pinch-hitter, lifting the White Sox to their fifth straight win.

Chicago got three straight one-

out singles off Tyler Walker (1-2) in the eighth to load the bases. He then struck out Brian Anderson before Swisher stepped into the box and produced his second hit of the series.

Diamondbacks 4, Tigers 0

At Phoenix, Randy Johnson pitched seven scoreless innings for his 288th career victory, and Arizona improved to a major league-best 28-16.

The 44-year-old Johnson (4-1) went a season-long seven innings to win his fourth straight decision, allowing six hits and a walk and striking out five.

Red Sox 11, Brewers 7

At Boston, David Ortiz homered twice and drove in four runs for Boston over Milwaukee.

Kevin Youkilis hit a two-run homer and Dustin Pedroia also homered for Boston, hitting a solo shot ahead of Ortiz’s first of the game.

Rockies 6, Twins 2

At Denver, Jeff Francis won for the first time this season and Todd Helton homered and drove

in three runs, helping Colorado beat Minnesota.

Francis (1-4) struck out seven in 6 1-3 innings for his first regular-season win since Sept. 23, at San Diego. In his previous three starts in May, Francis was 0-2 with a 9.00 ERA—including giving up eight runs and 13 hits in 4 2-3 innings during his last start at Arizona.

Royals 9, Marlins 3

At Miami, Jose Guillen homered and drove in four runs and Zack Greinke went six innings as Kansas City downed Florida.

The Royals won for the sixth time in seven games. Florida remained atop the NL East despite finishing the week with only one victory in six games.

Braves 5, Athletics 2

At Atlanta, Yunel Escobar had three hits, including a go-ahead, two-run single, and Omar Infante added a two-run triple in the eighth inning.

The A’s had at least one baserunner in every inning but left runners stranded at third base in the second, sixth, seventh and eighth. The A’s were 3-for-28

with runners in scoring position in their last five games before adding to their scoring woes in Sunday’s loss.

Cardinals 5, Rays 4

At St. Louis, Skip Schumaker doubled with one out in the ninth inning over a drawn-in outfield, driving in the winning run and capping St. Louis’ rally from a three-run deficit.

Chris Perez (1-0) retired the bottom of the Rays’ order in only five pitches in the ninth.

Mariners 3, Padres 2

At Seattle, Jose Lopez lined a two-out, two-run double in the eighth for the difference.

Heath Bell (0-3) took the loss.

Blue Jays 6, Phillies 5

At Philadelphia, Lyle Overbay’s three-run pinch-hit homer and Shannon Stewart’s two-run double helped Toronto beat Philadelphia in a game that was delayed twice by rain.

Ryan Howard gave the Phillies a quick 2-0 lead in the first inning with his 10th home run.

After the inning ended, the game was stopped by rain for

2 hours, and 4 minutes. A second delay of 39 minutes halted the game in the sixth inning. When play resumed, Toronto ace Roy Halladay made his first relief appearance since July 2, 2001. He pitched 2 1-3 innings giving up a hit. He struck out two. Halladay last pitched on Thursday.

Nationals 2, Orioles 1

At Baltimore, rookie John Lannan took a three-hitter into the eighth inning, Cristian Guzman homered, and Washington ended Baltimore’s four-game winning streak.

Lannan (4-4) allowed one run and four hits in 7 1-3 innings, the longest he’s lasted in 15 career starts. The left-hander struck out five, walked one and lowered his ERA to 3.40.

Angels 10, Dodgers 2

At Anaheim, California, Mike Napoli homered twice and drove in a career-high five runs to power the Angels over the Dodgers.

The Angels took two of three in the “Freeway Series,” including Friday night’s opener.

Hardluck Ginebra wallops Welcoat

MANILA, Philippines—Having a lot of catching up to do, Barangay Ginebra got some boost by ending its stint in the first round of the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference elimination round on a winning note.

The Kings got off to a jackrabbit start and never looked back, clobbering the Welcoat Dragons, 105-70, before a good weekend

HOMERS

From Page 28

scored twice in the game, had a triple, a home run, and three RBIs. He belted a two-run homer in first then an RBI triple in the second.

Jeremy Rabauliman, Jared Sablan, and Mizer alternated the pitching duties for the Patriots combining to a four no-hit innings with nine strikeouts and seven walks.

Hustlers 1 24, Dragons 4

A.J. Lizama and Raymund Saralu batted and pitched Hustlers I to a 24-4 dumping of the San Antonio Dragons.

Lizama went perfect at the plate while Saralu pitched in no relief as Hustlers I tied the Patriots on top of the standings. Lizama went 5-for-5 scoring five times with four doubles, a home run, and seven RBIs.

Lizama doubled in the first and belted a two-run inside-the-park home run in his second at bat in Hustlers I's eight-run first inning. He had back-to-back two-RBI doubles in the second and third innings and closed out his plate appearance with an RBI double in the third.

FIXERS

From Page 28

a number of games, returned to the Waterkings' lineup scoring 23 points to lead Star Water's losing cause. Gil Gapor added 15 more.

Foodmakers 98, Storemasters 69

Ryan Sanciangco remains Shirley's Coffee Shop/Blue Haus' main man leading the Foodmakers to a 98-69 rout of the Price Costco Storemasters.

Sanciangco scored 22 points to give the Foodmakers its fifth

crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

Chris Alexander and the Ginebra locals played their best game together thus far, carving out an easy rout of the Dragons which they now



“We've made a change in our game that obviously had positive impact on us,” said Ginebra coach Jong Uichico. “It's not that we won and won by a big margin. I just felt we made a move that's confidence-builder for the team.”

The Kings will start the sec-

Saralu, who walked in the first, went 3-for-3 with three runs, two doubles, and three RBIs while Joseph Borja went 3-for-4 with four runs and two RBIs.

Saralu also needed 57 pitches to force the Dragons to a 9-for-20 batting. He gave up two earned runs on eight hits with six strikeouts and no walks.

Saralu, in the bottom of the fourth, picked up a Bo Barry grounder for a 1-3 defensive play to first baseman Jesus Celles but gave up a single to Yochi Arurang. He then struck out Misaiki Cramer then forced Alden Ngeskebi to an infield fly to second baseman Borja.

Lions 9, Enforcers 5

Giovanni Taitingfong and Catalino Dela Cruz divided pitching duties for the Little Lions in leading the Kagman-based team to a 9-5 win over the Enforcers of Rep. Diego T. Benavente.

Taitingfong lasted three innings in start giving up one earned run on five hits with two strikeouts and three walks, while Dela Cruz pitched three shutout innings allowing four hits fanning four and walking one.

Keene Deleon Guerrero whacked back-to-back home runs in the first and second innings going 2-for-3 with two

runs and five RBIs while Dela Cruz went 2-for-2 with two runs, two doubles, and an RBI.

Braves 11, Survivors 1

R.J. Riungel held the Survivors to a 1-for-13 batting to lead the Tanapag Braves to an 11-1 win.

Riungel pitched a one-hit game giving up a lead off single to Poland Masaharu in the top of the second. The run was unearned after Masaharu reached home plate on an error by shortstop Frankie Lieto.

Riungel also retired seven batters and walked two more. He then went 2-for-3 at the plate scoring twice.

Haimi Blas went 2-for-3 with one run, three RBIs, and a homer. He singled in the first and belted a three-run inside-the-park homer in the second before striking out in the third.

SERNIOR LEAGUE Dolphins 12, Fielders 1

The PTI Dolphins earned the Senior League pennant after a 12-1 win over the Tan Holdings Fielders.

Tomas Camacho pitched five innings in the game shortened by the 10-run mercy rule giving up a lone hit, a lead off single to Ben Flores and an unearned run when Wensner Namelo scored

ond round with a poor 2-7 win-loss record, half-game behind the Dragons at 3-7.

“Hopefully, talagang nakuha na namin ang mga bagay na dapat namin gawin. I'm not blaming the players (on our struggling start in the tourney). Kung ano ang ginawa nila, coaching staff ang nagpaggawa,” said Uichico.

on a balk. He retired four batters and walked three more.

Anthony Rogolofoi Jr. went 2-for-4 with two runs, a triple, and two RBIs while Anthony Aldan had a 2-for-2 performance at the plate with two runs and two RBIs. John Paul Lizza, 2-for-3, scored three times.

The Dolphins played twice on that day scoring a 7-1 victory over the Jets after they all finished tied on top of the standings. The Fielders drew a bye then met the Dolphins for the pennant.

BIG LEAGUE Falcons 7, Hustlers 6

Tako Camacho scored what turned out to be the game-winning run to help the Sablan Topline Tanapag Falcons squeeze out a 7-6 triumph over the Hustlers.

Tied at 6-6 after five complete innings, Hustlers pitcher Vincent Sablan struck out Drew Magofna and Keoni Pua for a quick two outs but gave up a double to Camacho, who later scored on a Jerro Jones RBI single. Ryan Ada struck out to end the inning.

Nunu Kapileo pitched four innings in relief surrendering three earned runs on five hits fanning five and walking three more. He also went 2-for-3 scoring twice with an RBI.

37-37, 60-50, 86-76.

Referees: Gilbert Espino and Dado Vistal.

Third Game

Shirley's Coffee Shop/Blue Haus 98—Sanciangco 22, Esdrelon 15, Barbo 14, Rasa 11, Guiab 8, Manibusan 8, Marasigan 6, Santos 6, Fernandez 4, Mercurio 4.

Price Costco 69—Berline 14, Brostrom 11, Duenas 10, Charlton 8, B. Sablan 7, D. Sablan 7, Johnson 6, Lauron 4.

Scoring by quarters: 15-17, 42-26, 65-49, 98-69.

Referees: Noel Delos Santos and Jess Pabula.

will be declared champion.

The banquet and awards ceremony will be at Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V.

For more information about the May Masters Bowling Tournament, call Ross or Gigi Zapanta at 288-5627 or email them at zapanta@pticom.com or call Robert Talavera at SBC at 234-6420.

Action continues on Thursday with MHS Young Guns, Herbalizers, 15 Of Fame, and 670 Boom Boom clashing with Fatingali, MHS Okies, Snap Crackle Pop, and Angan. Games start at 5:30pm with the final match slated at 8:30pm.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	19	.587	—
Tampa Bay	25	19	.568	1
Baltimore	23	20	.535	2 1/2
Toronto	23	23	.500	4
New York	20	24	.455	6

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	23	20	.535	—
Cleveland	22	22	.500	1 1/2
Kansas City	21	22	.488	2
Minnesota	21	22	.488	2
Detroit	17	27	.386	6 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	26	20	.565	—
Oakland	24	21	.533	1 1/2
Texas	22	23	.489	3 1/2
Seattle	18	27	.400	7 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	24	19	.558	—
New York	22	19	.537	1
Philadelphia	24	21	.533	1
Atlanta	22	21	.512	2
Washington	19	26	.422	6

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	28	16	.636	—
Los Angeles	22	21	.512	5 1/2
Colorado	17	27	.386	11
San Francisco	17	28	.378	11 1/2
San Diego	16	29	.356	12 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	28	16	.636	—
Los Angeles	22	21	.512	5 1/2
Colorado	17	27	.386	11
San Francisco	17	28	.378	11 1/2
San Diego	16	29	.356	12 1/2

(FedEx Cup points in parentheses)

x-won on first playoff hole

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Little League Standings

Majors

Patriots	15	1
Hustlers I	15	1
Ol'Aces	11	3
Red Sox	11	3
Braves	11	4
Survivors</td		

Asai hopes to invite other Micronesian islands



James Borja, left, and Ken Borja of Guam hoist their trophies after placing third in the team competition with a total weight of 61.78 lbs.



Mike General, right, and Miles Driscol show off their trophies after placing second in the team competition with a total weight of 62.70 lbs.



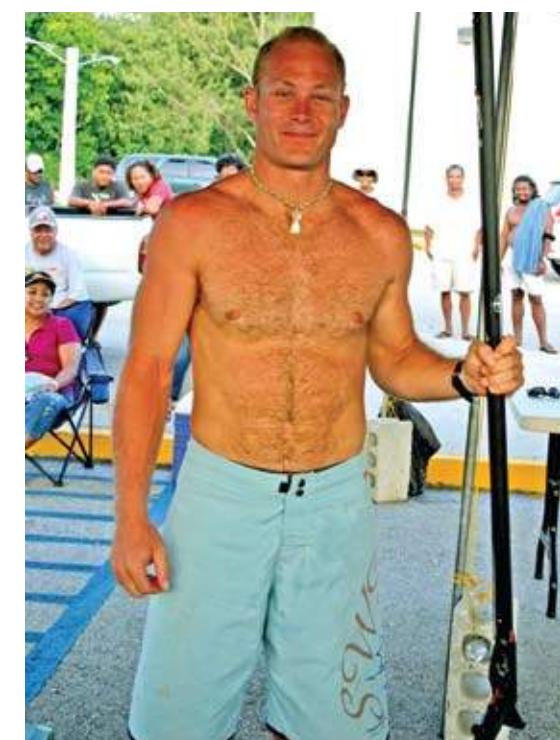
Brian Fitzgerald shows off the speargun he won for having the heaviest parrotfish that weighed 4.24 lbs.



Jess Hapdei shows off some of the variety of fish he caught during Saturday's one-day spearfishing tournament. At left is a unicorn fish or tataga while the one at right is a rudderfish.



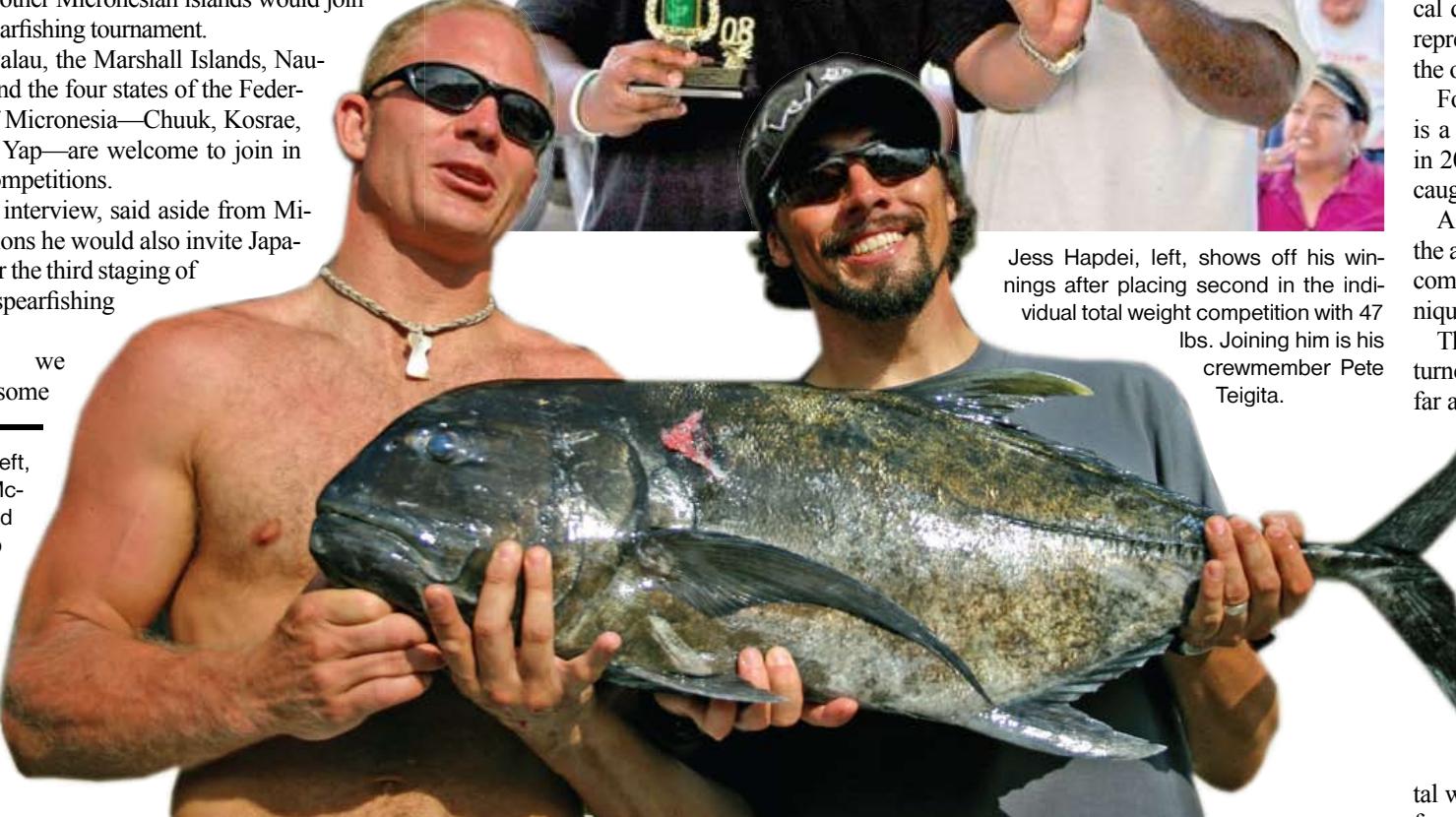
Scott Russel, left, and Peter Houk pose for photographers after winning the team competition with a total weight of 72.92 lbs.



Scott Moen shows off the spear gun he won for topping the biggest fish category. Moen caught a 24.10-lb blackjack.



Jess Hapdei, left, shows off his winnings after placing second in the individual total weight competition with 47 lbs. Joining him is his crewmember Pete Teigita.



Scott Moen, left, and Scott McClarlin hold their 24.10-lb prize-winning blackjack in Saturday's 2nd Annual Spearfishing Tournament at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Photos and Text By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Marianas
A p n e a
Spearfish-

ing Club president Morito Asai is hoping that in the coming years other Micronesian islands would join the annual spearfishing tournament.

Asai said Palau, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Kiribati, and the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia—Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap—are welcome to join in next year's competitions.

Asai, in an interview, said aside from Micronesian nations he would also invite Japanese divers for the third staging of the one-day spearfishing tournament.

"Hopefully we could get some

Japanese divers for next year since the [Marianas Visitors Authority] is one of our sponsors."

The Aqua Smith Dive Shop owner said that the sport of spearfishing is growing. "The number of local divers is increasing and this year alone we have representatives from Guam, Tinian, and Rota joining the ones from Saipan."

Forty divers joined this year's competition, which is a 60-percent increase from the 24 that competed in 2007. "I am glad that they all returned safely and caught a lot of fish compared to last year."

Asai said competition is not only the main focus of the annual tournament. "Divers also get the chance to compare strategies and learn the latest fishing techniques from other divers."

The tournament began at 6am and the last boat returned to Smiling Cove at 3:30pm. Divers went as far as Cowtown in the north to Naftan and Aguingan points in the south.

Jess Hapdei, who placed second in the individual total weight category, said he would like to thank his late sponsor Ben Concepcion for all the things he learned about fishing.

Hapdei, who was joined by Pete Teigita, said they went to Cowtown to catch a variety of fish. "The current was strong and the waters are rough but I survived and endured everything just to find the variety of fish."

Hapdei, who placed sixth last year, placed second to Mike General in the individual total weight category. "Placing second is good enough for me. It's a good day to fish and to finish second."

Asai hopes to invite other Micronesian islands



Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club president Morito Asai is hoping that in the coming years that other Micronesian islands would join the annual spearfishing tournament.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

28 TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Homers help Patriots blank Hustlers II

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Home runs by Chris Mizer and Jun Rabauliman helped the defending champion SaipanCell Patriots cruise to a 13-0 blanking of the Hustlers II last Saturday at the end of the regular season of the Majors division in the Saipan Little League.

Mizer's towering homer in the third-inning highlighted that win as the part-time pitcher sent the ball way past the Little League and Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field fence.

It was the 15th win in 16 games for the Patriots as they are scheduled to face the UMDA Hustlers I at 4pm today for the pennant after both teams finished with similar 15-1 slates.

Mizer went 3-for-3 with a third-inning, three-run homer that went past the "Tan Ge" field fence to go with his two-RBI double in first and a single in the second. He also scored three runs and had five RBIs.

Rabauliman went 2-for-3

See HOMERS on Page 26



JON PEREZ

R.J. Riungel of the Tanapag Braces throws a pitch in this file photo taken in one of their games in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan field.



JON PEREZ

The SaipanCell Patriots' Chris Mizer follows through his pitch in this file photo taken in one of their games in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan field.

Fixers snap skid in masters division

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

The win came in late for the Fixers as they won't advance to the next round but it was enough to salvage some pride in their luckless campaign in the 2008 FMI Inter-Color Basketball League.

The Fixers foiled the Taga Warriors' repeated comeback tries to score an 86-76 win in Sunday's masters division game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win snapped the Fixers' six-game slide, which saw them lose by an average of 7.5 points per game. They were only blown out once, suffering a 89-106 clipping from the Warriors on April 20. Their other losses were either by five points or less.

Edsel Delfin scattered 13 points to lead the Fixers' balanced scoring attack with Yasu Irinaka adding 12 markers, while George Villasan also finished with 12.

Richard Brostrom scored nine of his 11 points in the final period, hitting timely baskets to keep the

Warriors at bay. The indefatigable Bruce Berline and John Johlend combined for 16 points.

Ronald Delos Reyes remained the Warriors' top scorer ending up with 27 points but failed to get the needed support from his teammates as Jun Abedes managed to score 16.

No other Warrior scored in double figures with Ed Cosino being limited to only eight markers.

Pawnbrokers 107, Waterkings 70

In the first game, GEC Pawnshop fortified its bid of advancing to the next round with an easy 107-70 victory over Star Water.

The Pawnbrokers pulled away early in the game to breeze past the Waterkings to improve to 5-2 and stay close behind the 6-1 slates of Ol'Aces and the Advance X-Terminators.

Mark Wallace paced the Pawnbrokers with 31 points with Manuel Ajoste and Budz Camacho scoring 26 and 18 each. Mike Umali and Mike Olaitiman combined for 17 markers.

Krisgel Arreza, who missed

See FIXERS on Page 26



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26th serving of May Masters set

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

The CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament returns for its 26th year when competition begins this weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

The three-day bowling tournament—organized by the Saipan Bowling Association and sponsored in part by JET Holdings, MARPAC-Budweiser, Saipan Grand Hotel, Club V, the Marianas Visi-

tors Authority, PTI, and Saipan Bowling Center CNMI—will run from May 23 to 25.

Games begin on May 23, Friday, with the registration starting at 1:30pm. The three-game singles event follows 30 minutes after the sign up. The three-game doubles event starts at 4:15pm.

The team event is scheduled at 6:30pm with dressing of the lanes timed at 8:45pm. A 9:15 extra shift is set for all events.

On Saturday, the games begin at 9am with the lane dressing slated at 5:30pm. An extra shift at

See 26TH on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan, left, joins, from left, 2007 May Masters men's champion Edgar Talavera, and finalists Robert Talavera, Richard Leong, Ariel Cacdac, Kitz Barja, and Dodong Eparwa, who received the award in behalf of his son Jonathan Eparwa.

Angan ends Fatingali streak

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Angan made sure no team will go undefeated this season.

Angan ended Fatingali's seven-game winning run pulling off an 11-7, 11-2, 7-11 win on Thursday night as action continued in the 9th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Miller Lite Spring Coed 4-Person Beach Volleyball League at the PIC sand courts.

Angan caught Fatingali on its off night squeezing out a close first set win and completing the victory with a masterful performance in the second set.

Fatingali put up a resistance of sorts in the third but it came too late as Angan already earned the win to improve to 6-3 in fourth place.

The win was the second straight for Angan after an 11-7, 13-11, 11-13 decision against Snap Crackle Pop.

In other results, Herbalizers and Snap Crackle Pop scored consecutive sweeps over MHS

See ANGAN on Page 26



Pierce scores 41 to lead Celtics to Eastern finals

Paul Pierce returned home and made sure the Celtics would play there again. Boston's captain scored 41 points—and still lost a shootout with LeBron James.

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